Ellen S. Kempton.

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MRS. THEODORE F. BUTZOW
2049 WEST CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

October 16, 1936.

My dear Grace,

Yesterday Aunt Ellen Kingston's diary was sent to you. Do as you choose with it. I am trying to dispose of some things that others would not know what to do with. Your description of autumn foliage made me wish for another ride with you. We do not have the gorgeous coloring

Edisto Island, Apr. 24. 1865. So. Ca.
James Whaley Plantation.

This hasty journal I will keep for my friends at home thinking that a matter of fact account of things seen and heard during my labors here among these people may be interesting to them. 'Twill be hastily written and those who read must read with no spirit of criticism —

Leaving New York, Saturday, 10 o'clk. Apr. 15 steamer "Fulton" arrived at Hilton Head, Tues. 18 at 2 o'clk. having had a quiet voyage quite monotonous with but little to interest. Beside our company of teachers, Miss Mira B. Stanton, from Lowell, Mr. Albert Everett, from Groton, there were three from the New York Society. At this place our fellow passengers separated, some one way some another. We remained on board watching with great interest the novel scenes before us, while Mr. Everett went up to the town or village to find Mr. Dodge to whom we had a letter from the Boston Society. Soon after he left us Mr. Dodge came on board, seeing us waiting and most of the passengers gone enquired if we were teachers from the N. Eng. F. A. Soc. After seeing that our baggage was all right took us to the Provost Marshal's office, a long way in the sand and sun. There we took the oath of allegiance & I realized more than ever I had a country, since civil war was in our land

but I must be loyal. The taking the oath was a solemn thing to me. While here Mr. Everett came, then all went to get our passes to Charleston. How strange, a pass to go from one place to another in our own land! Leaving the office Mr. Dodge took us to see Miss Lilly, who is here teaching the Freedmen, found her keeping house in the upper story of a store house, occupying two rooms & living in primitive style. Then it first occured to me I was to keep house, the thought was at first rather startling to me, especially as in my preparations I had made no calculations for it, I had been told we were to have "rations & quarters". I did not realise, though I should, that rations were all uncooked. In my trunks I had simply my wardrobe, books &c with two plates, two cups & saucers, knife, fork and spoon and napkin, also bedding, nothing at all for cooking. Leaving Mr. Dodge at Miss Lilly's we strolled out to see the place. It has all been built since the breaking out of the Rebellion and is a military town emphatically. Wading through the sand came to a tree and while questioning its kind a young gent. told Mr. Everett it was a fig tree, the first any of us had ever seen, this gent. told us many things about the place and offering to show us around we gladly accepted, we first went to the soldiers' hospital a long walk, on our way passed officers quarters, small houses, mostly one story built along the shore all in a line with a little enclosure in front & a good plank walk built up from the sand, way beyond, there was the hospital.

a neat airy building, there lay many of the patients on their little cots breathing the pure sea air while those convalescent were reading, writing or walking on the piazza, from here we turned back, walked through the principal street where the sutler's have their stores, all were closed and many draped in black because of the sad news we brought in this steamer, the death of our dear president Lincoln. We heard the news just as we left New York, how sad it made us! I so wanted to see some friend with whom I could speak of our sorrow, and when Mr. S. met me on the wharf, as I was to take the Fulton, I was greatly pleased to meet some friend — I can hardly tell what were my feelings. The village of Hilton in its mourning must have looked more dreary than usual. The colored people looked much darker to me than those at home — but it did look homelike to see them, our escort politely invited us to tea with him, accepting the invitation had my first experience of camp life, at the table were eight young gentlemen who "mess" together, and are connected with the Commissary Department. After tea, which to me seemed quite sumptuous, went to the steamer "Ann Maria" which was to take us to Charleston. While sitting on deck waiting for the boat to leave Mr. Dodge & Miss Lilly came to see us they remained an hour. ~~with~~ I began to wonder why the boat did not go, but Mr. D. told us there was never any certainty about the hour of Government boats leaving, the only way was to be on hand, thus I would learn in this Department waiting was a virtue. Well we did wait, and in such a cabin! All conveniences for sleeping, if there ever had been any, had been removed

in order to give more room to transport a greater number of troops. Most on board were army officials or men in some way connected with government, there was but one lady beside ourselves. All night long, till one in the morning, we lay at the wharf, no bed or berth, no comfortable chair, a narrow seat, cushioned, ran the length of the cabin, on this Miss S. and I tried to be comfortable, making the seat wide that we might lie more comfortably, with chairs, but no sleep, if one was so fortunate as to approach the land of dreams, surely one of the number would feel called upon to make some remark or make an entire change of position which would move the whole, then Mr. Ev. would produce from his travelling bag a huge piece of cake, so all night long on board the Govt. Steamer Ann Maria, we sat, or lay down, chatted or tried to sleep till daylight. How our heads looked by light with no place for making ones toilet and the boat rocking and pitching at such a rate! So we sat where we were, took a tumbler of water performed our morning ablutions and put the gloss on our hair, called ourselves respectable and went on deck, where all were eagerly watching signs of entering Chs'ton harbor. As we saw Fort Sumpter in the distance our eyes looked with wonder and curiosity, on this fort of historic fame & watching till approaching within a short distance, our interest grew as an engineer, who had been with Gen. Gilmore, and with the Gen.'s book in his hand, explained to us how the shot and shell rained from these forts into the city of Chs'ton, then we passed forts Moultrie, Pinckney,

there to the wharf, really to the city of Charleston. The wharfs looked desolate, we for the time, that is the coming of the "Ann Maria", seemed to make the only stir. The news of the presidents death was told from the deck even before we reached the wharf — At the time the flags were flying gaily at all the forts in the harbor and public buildings in the city, soon, as the sad tidings flew lightening speed, along, the flags dropped, and one by one told us they heard, that they mourned. The sun seemed hot to us on the wharf waiting to see our trunks taken from the steamer — Here we saw the blacks in all their glory. We had no definite idea where to go or what to do — We hoped some one would meet us, as at Hilton Head — we had a letter to Mr. Blake, one of the society's Sup'ts but where was he to be found in this city of confusion! We asked on the wharf about a hotel, the colored man on whose dray our trunks etc. had been placed, told us, the Charleston Hotel was the "most properest place", but a gentleman, probably a Yankee, told us of a private boarding house in King St. there being no coach at the wharf, in this city of destruction, we followed the dray on which were our effects and three blacks — too dark to be called colored. Well we followed through the sand & sun, hot, weary and hungry, till the men stopped, we had arrived at the place in King St. below were stores. I, while the men unloaded, & Mr. W. attending it, went up the long flight of stairs, met one whom I thought might be the landlady, on my enquiring if we could be accommodated with her, she said they were just in the midst of moving & could not possibly, but directed us further on the same street, walked down to the street again, had the trunks again packed, started on found 260 King St.

here, made sure we could stop before again unloading, after securing a room, trunks were brought up while Mr. Ev. rushed round to get a 5. or bill changed to pay the men, for a long time it seemed impossible to get the change it being so scarce, after a long waiting for him to come he came, the men paid and discharged, urged upon the landlady the necessity of our having a speedy meal, as we were in a starving condition, 'twould be ready in half an hour. I did not know then as now the length of Southern half hours, neither had I learned to wait, but ignorant as I was expected in thirty minutes to be seated at a pleasant table and my hunger somewhat appeased. But no, thirty minutes passed nothing came to us, we drummed on a miserable old piano, looked out of the window, an hour passed, then another half, when a waiter, as if just at the appointed time announced our repast ready. Such a breakfast or luncheon, I was but little prepared for. I thought anything would taste good — but 'twas all so miserably I could eat but little, 'twas my first introduction to hominy, of this I made my meal. the coffee could not drink. A little colored boy while we ate waved a huge fan of some sort over our heads ~~while~~ keeping away the immense swarm of greedy flies. After this, went to our room had the luxury of a bath, clean clothing &c. Mr. Ev. went out to find Mr. Blake, Miss S. lay on one sofa in the parlor and I on the other almost asleep when we heard footsteps in the room, looking up Mr. Ev. introduced us to Mr. Blake. 'Twas rather ludicrous this introduction, all sat together and talked,

both of us half asleep. Mr. B. asked where we would prefer to teach, I told him I knew almost nothing of the different fields of labor, I had looked upon the work as a whole with, no definite plan but to go where 'twas thought I was most needed, where I could do the most for the freedman. that I had no special desire to labor in Chs'ton. He told us of Edisto Island, I was entirely ignorant of the place, he never had been there but told us what he had learned of the Island, of the colord people who had been sent there, of its destitution and great need of schools. Miss Stanton & I, as with one voice, said, "we will go to Edisto." The boat would not go for a day or two, meanwhile we could look about the place and go into some of the schools. Before leaving Mr. B. proposed a ride for the afternoon, the coach, such a coach, came for us at three, after riding through several of the streets & visiting several places of interest, left Mr. B. at his place of business where there was to be a meeting of colord men to whom he was to speak, went to the Orphan Asylum, now used as a hospital, a most magnificent building with fine grounds. From the top of this building one has a fine view of the city, also the harbor. In the yard is a statue of William Pitt which formerly stood on the corner of Meeting & Broad sts. ~~and~~ was mutilated in the Revolution and afterward moved to this yard. From here returned for Mr. B., reaching the hall found his speech was not concluded so had the pleasure of the close of his address which was responded to with great enthusiasm by some of the audience, after hearing a good response to ~~Mr. B's speech~~ all took the carriage & rode to the teachers home, where we

a number of teachers, remember the names of Misses Green, ~~Gaylord~~ Allen, Garland, Breck, Sargeant, Southworth, Messers Allen, Littlefield and Fletcher, they are living in a fine old mansion house but tis not a pleasant part of the city, our call was short and I have a strange, confused impression of it, having at the time a terrible headache so that every moment then seemed long & I was obliged to hasten our company away, we found ourselves much fatigued and so warm, after a late tea retired, the parlor is quite unpleasant in the evening, being large and but one candle for the whole room, which makes darkness only more visible. The next morning Miss S. & I strolled out alone, the streets seem literally forsaken, we met but few people beside the blacks, these seemed for the most part gay & happy. The southern ladies look as if they had not seen Paris fashions for three years. Almost every woman we met was dressed neatly, but as if the best had been made of every article of dress, bonnets, that feminine article which changes so much and so often, looked hideous, though I presume three years ago we wore the same & thought them fine, I did not realize the changes in dress which we continually and unconsciously pass through. We entered one bookstore, they have had no new thing since '61, the stock was old & shopworn, probably 'twas once a large flourishing establishment. At the dry goods stores we priced a few articles, cotton prints 50. & 75. a yd. spool cotton .50, cheapest muslins 1.00., all poor, very poor, only a few groceries, were enormous. One of the teachers told me she paid 1.25 for a common broom. We saw the wonderful Citadel our

of the beauty of Chs'ton, and we saw ruins wherever we went, ruins from the great fire of '61. ruins caused by our continual firing on the city from the gunboats in the harbor and from our troops on Folly Island. We walked on the Battery where those shells first did their destructive work in July '63, and my mind wandered to those bloody, fiery days - when one could not with safety walk in this part of the city, how, when one could in the darkness of midnight, count eight bombs in the air at one time, how their houses must have shaken from their firm foundations and the proud beautiful inhabitants, they, from their hearts trembled for more. Through the massive walls of many of their elegant homes on the Battery we could see the whole interior. others, only one corner would be knocked away. almost all bore some mark of this four years fire, so incessant so continual. It must have been like showers of fire, fire from James Island, fire from Battery Wagner, fire from Morris Island and fire from our Monitors. We are told that the Union artillerists, when they had taken possession of Battery Wagner, sent their shells above Citidel Green, 5½ or 6 miles distant. No more of this ill-mite, I can give no adequate description of the ruin war has made - Entering a fine large building on whose gateway was cut in stone, "Normal School." found 'twas now occupied by teachers from the N. E. F. A. S. who have a large number of scholars under their charge, Miss Gwen whose room we visited recognized me, having met me at the Society's rooms in Boston the day she sailed. I recalled the circumstance plainly though had forgotten her face - we sat in her pleasant northernlike schoolroom, listened to a recitation in Geography from a class of boys, then the school sang; 'twas glorious singing, mostly patriotic songs, and they

with great energy, not only of voice but with energy of motion, perhaps it answers the purpose as well as calisthenics with singing in our Schools at home. Perfect order prevailed, the school was pleasant but this is not the work I desired, just to teach, I wanted to do more for these people & I was glad I had engaged to go to Edisto, though Miss Green and many of the teachers at the "Home" laughed when we told them of our future field and spoke as if we had been "gobbled up" while they had escaped, but we explained to them that we desired to go. This Normal School building was, in "Reb. time," as these people say, used for a high grade of school & really must have been fine, the shells did not leave this without a mark but in one corner of one of the rooms is a large hole giving the outer air freely. The grounds, though not large, are filled with beautiful shrubbery & is one of the most pleasant city school yards I ever was in. We regretted we could visit no other school, we were warm & tired, having spent some time in the ruins of the once magnificent Post Office and Planter's Bank. Well Friday morning at 9½ o'clk. we were in an Ambulance with Mr. Blake and all our traps to take the steamer Hudson for Edisto, on the boat met Mr. Blaisdell who had been on the Island to make arrangements for schools, he would go on with us, get his things & return. At the wharf 'twas wait again, but we enjoyed this waiting, there was enough to see, even this book would not hold if I shd. write the whole of the sights we saw those hours. I wish Dickens might have seen what we saw, in his next novel of low fancy he would bring it all in. I must mention just a few sights, or a few incidents.

We sat on the upper deck while the boat was being loaded, loaded chiefly with human being, only a short time since considered chattels, now Freedmen. there they were men, women & children, many of them had come miles, following in the wake of Sherman's army, not one decently dressed, for how could they march burdened with a change of clothing, allowing they had them. many of them were filthy to the most extreme, when could they have washed? These people were to be sent by Government to Edisto where they would have 40 ac. of land & a cabin, & to be provided with rations till their land should yield them crops- Most had just been supplied with two weeks' rations. The getting on board of these people was interesting to say the least. The lower deck lay several feet below the wharf & such a time as they would have getting their things down the inclined plane. I would tremble as I saw a shallow tray or basket filled with corn, slid down or a huge bundle thrown on bard, least they fall into the water below. Then there were two pigs in a box slid down as nicely as possible, a little girl patiently waited her turn, amusing herself by swinging by the feet a pair of chickens, while a boy would pick a feather blowing it about & watching its wanderings. There there were women with infants and women without, lying around on the wharf sleeping in the sunshine- they were so many. I thought of this as a Yankee crowd & of the shouting, swearing & confusion there would be. Here was none, they, so used to waiting, to being cared for thought, if they thought at all, would be all right, the boat would go when they were all on board and not at an appointed hour. At last they were on board. as we were starting, a woman with a tray of nice looking cakes op her head appeared, we were hungry and wanted

them, we tossed her some money & she tossed the cakes and we were on our way steaming slowly out of Chs'ton harbor across the bar out into the ocean. How that old Hudson did toss & pitch! 'Twas not that the sea was so rough but 'twas that the boat was so poor & then 'twas its nature. To sit on deck in a chair was impossible so we took ourselves to a life-boat & there made ourselves as comfortable as seasickness would allow. When the sunset we were nearing the Island and as the shadows had grown their longest we anchored at Edisto, our Island home. The clouds were glorious, black and ponderous, and darting from them vivid flashes of lightening - I looked, as we stood on the deck, with great interest an peculiar interest on all the scenes before me, this was to be my home these were to be my people and through the darkness, and by the firelights along the shore, I saw the dark figures moving back and forth cooking their evening meal, their hominy or rice or in other ways trying to make themselves comfortable for the night, most of these had been our fellowtravellers but many remained on board during the night. From the boat we could see no house though I looked intently for one - the pending moss on the trees, the firelights and moving figures around them added to my mind peculiar interest to the novel scene. We remained on board during the night, accepting an invitation from the officers at camp & Mrs. Webb to breakfast with them, Lt. Jenkins & Mrs. Webb came to the boat on horseback followed by a baggage wagon to take us & our effects. This morning ride was delightful through magnificent oaks whose branches and those of the green trees reached low for our shelter & often sprinkled us with many

ew, reaching the officers headquarters found it a most delightful place, tis the Mary Seabrook plantation, & the grounds with their beautiful walks & drives, fishponds and orange trees, not to mention the most beautiful roses then in bloom must have been magnificent in their flourishing days. Surely my first introduction to a Southern plantation gave me a most pleasing impression. Though from what I am told, think I saw the best first. At the breakfast table met Cap. Sirres, Lt. Jenkins, Mr. Hall, and Mrs. Night & Mrs. Webb the two ladies teachers from the New York association. At the table the place of our destination was discussed, & the "James Whaley" Plantation" was decided upon. After walking about this beautiful place a short time the baggage wagon was ready, we mounted, the sun was hot & we, in our winter clothing, were rather warm the wagon was full & with us, piled, our trunks, bags, little bundles & big bundles, boxes of rations and all sorts, then there were two colored men for drivers & Dr. Mason came from camp to visit people on the road. Our picture would have added interest to a comic almanac – to add to the effect, or rather to keep off the effect of the sun, we dipped our handkerchiefs in water, putting them over our heads, the water dripping over us. a pail of water we took among other things, partly to keep our roses fresh, & partly to keep our heads cool. Our ride though slow was pleasant, after riding two or three miles, ~~over some bridges~~ occasionally crossing a bridge which though small, seemed almost impassible, we came to one which was not passable, & we all were obliged to dismount and walk over as best we could, while the team went round somewhere, we lay under a tree waiting for the team then ~~again we~~ mounted were & proceeding on again. The trumpet flower blossomed along the roadside occasionally we saw roses & honeysuckles. Blackberry bushes were in bloom. All seemed summerlike. Quite in contrast with our N. Eng. homes. After riding 7 miles they said it was, though

a road, which hardly ought to bear the name of a road, we reached the long looked for "James Whaley Plantation," none of the party had ever been here before except Mr. Blaisdell. Here was "our home", & really I had looked forward to some place so long these days of tossing about, that it seemed pleasant to say this is my room, to unpack & scatter homelike things around. We were all gay & happy. The house was literally empty except a few seats Mr. B. had placed in one of the parlors to be used as a schoolroom & a rough bedstead he had made. Mr. Blake from his boxes & barrells produced various cooking utensils and soon the gentlemen were over the fire boiling eggs for our coming meal - a table cloth! No one had thought of such a thing. How ignorant I was of what I needed I flattered ^myself I had in my outfit all that I should need, but housekeeping I had not thought of. I hunted & found my single sheets just a fit for the table the gents. had constructed, by nailing some rough boards on two barrells. Each produced what table furnishings they had brought & we sat down to our first meal. 'Twas well I had made up my mind to be pleased with all things that must be & not to be at all fastidious, this, with a good appetite made the bare dinner quite palatable. Our bed, that night, was but some blankets spread on the floor, each had brought a bedsack but as yet had found nothing to fill them, and on this hard bed we slept & were refreshed the next morning, the Sabbath, there was nothing to remind us of the holy morning, many things were to be seen to, 'twas a necessity, but about ten o'clk. many children & some older ones having ^heard we had arrival came to say "Howdy" - I don't know how to spell it. - but they sat on the piazza a long time & Miss S. & I took our Bibles & we, sitting in the door way, read to them,

asked them questions & sang "I want to be an angel", "I have a Father in the promised Land", & other Sabbath School songs which reminded us of the dear S. S. at home which perhaps even at that hour were singing the same songs. Then two or three repeated the Comm. "Remember the Sab. day" & the Lord's Prayer, we were quite surprised at their stock of Bible knowledge, though quite limited, but they told us they had been to Yankeen school a little while on St. Helena Island. In the evening Mr. Blake called a meeting of the people together in one of the parlors, explained to them why we had come among them, our plans for the future & asking them to do what they could to assist us, & telling them we should be very dependent upon them for many kindnesses. Often was he interrupted by responses such as, "yes, Massa we know you lub us," "we wants to learn." "Thats so Massa." "God bless you." As he closed his remarks an old, gray-headed man kneeled and prayed with fervor & eloquence. He prayed Almighty God to bless us who had come so far to open the eyes of the blind & to give them sight & then he thanked God for putting the kindness in our hearts "to come way down here for de love us poor niggers, jas as de Lord Jesus Christ leff de home in de hebens for de lob of wicked sinners". As he prayed the sun set, leaving the room in solemn darkness & then some other struck the hymn — "Oh for a thousand tongues to bless my great Redeemer's name"! all joined with great solemnity, the darkness added to the solemnity of the scene and as we took the hand of each brother & sister as they bade us "good night" we felt the presence of God was with us & that He had indeed prepared the hearts of these people to receive us. And my heart went up in prayer that I might be faithful to this new work entrusted to me. — And today I have been writing, doing all sorts of little odd jobs between, there is but little to arrange as we have almost nothing, but I have put

some Autumn leaves on the windows after they were washed, just as we had some at home. They gave rather a refined look to the room. Today Mr. Blaisdell returned to Charleston.

Tuesday 25th They tell us this house though not fine is in the best repair of any on the Island - well the others must be poor! This is convenient for us. The hall is good size with a parlor on each side a long room a bulge at the end having long windows ~~backe~~ back of these two, & on each side, also opening from the hall is another room one one the side we shall use for a schoolroom shall use as a store room & the other, which leads from our parlor - diningroom, for a kitchen, in it is a good closet, also one in the diningroom where Mr. Ev. has put up shelves & we shall have that for our china closet. In vain I try to make our parlor look a little more as if human beings lived here but almost in vain, one cannot create, one can make, but not from nothing. There is the rude table in the center of the room with a bench on each side for seats, not a chair in the house, not an article of furniture yet. The piazza is pleasant & while there one forgets the emptyness within. While sitting here saw a carriage in the distance Lt. Jenkins & Mrs. Webb came to call on us, Capt. Stowes & Mrs. Wight soon followed on horseback. Showed them over the house, chatted awhile & they were off. The span & carriage is one captured this week during a raid on the main land. While they were here Miss S. & I each rode Mrs. W.'s horse a little way, my first ride, from this I fear twill be a long time, & with much practice, before I can ride well, but when Mr. B.'s horse comes I mean to practice. Again we return to our blankets on the floor, as yet we do not succeed in getting filling for our beds. But each night we are tired & sleep sweetly.

Wednesday Apr. 26. Yesterday Mr. W. went off hunting around on some of the plantations to find if possible, some stray article of furniture, he returned bringing something which I have been fitting up & which we shall use for a table, a lower shelf, hid by the red curtain I have arrainged, will be useful as a "tuck away place", this stands between the two long windows. Then took two boxes some of our things came in covered them with calico Mr. B. brought, and really when I came into the room to look & admire it did really look cozy & rather homelike. I have not written of the washing of the floors we had done Monday. Many of the women in the neighborhood & around come offering their services, & men. We had three at work chiefly washing floors. I showed Betsey the room, told her how I wanted it done. She continually answered "yes mum". I saw that a large quantity of water was hot, leaving her a few moments to attend to other calls, returned found she had from some source supplied herself with a large tub full of cold water, a large course bag, & a long handle broom, in the tub was a shallow tin dish, well she began, the tin dish was the first article called into use, dipping it full of water & throwing it on the floor then swashing it round at a fearful rate with the broom, at this juncture I left in despair, she was too old, I thought, to suggest a new way & my clothing was in great danger of a ducking. Then were calls here & everywhere, "You want this room empt maam"? "Where's your broom"? We hadn't one among us. So suggested they try and borrow one in one of the cabins, but there was only one woman who owned one, but she kindly loaned it & soon the rooms had a more comfortable look. During this running up & down stairs I had a letter home lying on my table in which I wrote between times. Going again to the woman washing the floor

found she had gone through with process no 1. I was now with her dress above her knees, & the large bag under feet, moving them back & forth & this was probably the moping process. When she left the floor, calling it finished, it looked so wet one would hardly step on it but with all the windows open & the sun shining in it dried before night. But the hardest was to find some one who could clean the paint, of the many who came all shook their heads saying, "I no do such work as dat, I works in de fields" & so the paint is yet uncleaned. Today Mr. Sr. nailed up two boards in our sleeping room which we use for tables. Our toilet arrangements are not very extensive. Only one tin wash basin which Miss S. brought, no pitcher, in the morning the one who rises first has the first bath, then 'tis filled with water again & left at the door of another & so the basin goes the rounds. If we had only known what we needed how much we might have brought for our comfort! The only mirror we can boast of is a little thing three inches by two!

Thursday Apr. 27. After breakfast Mr. Blake, Miss Stanton & I went to look a large, barnlike, building we saw a little distance from the house thinking it might be a good place for her school but found it occupied by several families, it was formerly a cotton gin house. this noon an auntie came bringing a chicken under her arm as a present for us. It has been cool & pleasant and this ev. have a fire in the grate which makes the room cheerful by its bright, ^light really brilliant compared with our usual one candle. We were disappointed today in not sending out letters. we hoped one of the officers would be up & we could send, this is our only way, then

they may remain at camp a week or more waiting for the steamer to come & no one ever knows with any certainty when it is coming—

This Morning Friday 28. Mr. B. took our letters went to Mr. Alden's, the Supt's, he may not come back before going to Chs'ton. This afternoon walked to some woods, which looked near, but there being no path but through a newly planted cotton field, the walk was tiresome, jumping from one hill to the other. 'Tis peculiar to me, their long word, looking like new made graves, like acres of graves. I hoped to find these woods pleasant as they looked, but the growth of briery vines and tangled underbrush made it impossible to even enter them, was disappointed in finding no flowers at all. but we shall have a few blackberries then, found one ripe ~~one~~. As we look around begin to fear we shall not find a second place for a school.

Saturday 29. In one of our walks found a man who had a little crockery. we wished to buy it as our store is quite limited, having but one plate for each & no dishes, we had not cups for all, and this seemed like a fortunate find for us. the man does not use it but keeps it rather for ornament, 'tis some which formerly belonged to his master. This morn. he brought it for us to look at and we purchased 4 tea & 4 coffee cups & saucers - 4 breakfast plates & some deep plates for dishes. A few white china, with gilt bands with the letters G. M. M. the others are fine brown china curiously figured, in the center of each piece is a device and around it the words, "Prospicere quam ulcisci" initial letters, G.H.C.H. This trading took a long time, the man had so little idea of the value of things, and almost no idea of the value of our "greenbacks," one has to have patience, so I thought little more as after he was gone I was trying to teach a woman how to wash the floors without throwing water upon them but she did not understand, and after a little questioning found she had never

washed any floor except that of her rough cabin, and had never done work in a white person's house, having always worked in the fields. In almost despair finding anyone around us who can do our washing decently, as yet have not been able to. We were just starting for a walk when Mr. B. returned, no boat so had not been to the city. Among other things brought us a loaf of bread, the first we have had seen since being on the Island. Immediately prepared a lunch for Mr. B., with pride spread out our new china which quite astonished him, "This is gorgeous" said he. really 'twas the first time our table had had a civilized appearance at all. I do hope our meals from crocked tins are about over, but yet there are things yet which we must put on in the same dish in which 'tis cooked over the fire. We could not resist the temptation of eating though sparingly of that loaf of bread. Just started on our walk again when Cap. Stores & Mrs. Wight rode up. They made but a short call complimented us on the improvements we had made & congratulated us on our success in making things look comfortable. They gone, though 'twas rather near sundown, started again, this time Mr. B. joined us went to a cluster of of cabins we could see from the house, just beyond them found an old ~~gin~~ Prain house which would be a good summer schoolroom, & Mr. B. decided this was the place for Miss S. It is a large open room with seats around ~~the~~ & a fire in the center, lighted by windows with no sashes, simply board shutters. A family occupies the upper part found they had a nice easy chair for which we bargained, as we as yet have no chair. Returning found a man who had some corn blades of course they were several years old as no crops have been gathered on the Is. for three years, but we were glad to secure a load for our

bedsacks, at first the man could hardly be persuaded to part with them, but when we told him our pitiful story of not having slept on a bed since being on the Is. his heart was touched & now, we have for tonight, the luxury of one sack filled with blades. Two luxuries in a day. Three, in fact, China, bread & a bed.

Sunday 30. Rose early but breakfasted late. While standing on the back stoop saw a white man coming it proved to be Surgeon Fish, from camp, whom we had not met, after sitting awhile with him, the children began to come, whom we had invited for Sunday School, perhaps 'twould be more strictly speaking a sing, all went in the other parlor where our seats were, Mr. B. lead the singing, talked to them about the song, "Joyfully Joyfully onward we move." They learned one verse. One young mother, Bess, sat there while nursing her child as composedly as if at home. All seemed earnest to learn & some had sweet voices though they would accent some of the words strangely. "I have a Father in the Promised Land" is a great favorite with them. At sundown had a meeting in the same place for the older people. not many came, we think we shall not find it advisable to continue this meeting as we find the people in the neighborhood go to a church three miles distant, they do not get back till late, probably a greater number came the first time from curiosity and interest in us. Mr. B. read 54 Is. 13 Matt. Remarks on Gal. 6. 7 & 8., sang "Coronation," at the close, "Old Hundred."

May 1st I had told the children, and all who wished to come, I would begin Schl. Monday, today, at 9 o'clk. I wondered how they were to know when 9 o'clk. came but they were here in season. I was up at half past five, & then on the steps & in the yard were a dozen children, going to them, gave them a hearty welcome but told them 'twould be a long time before nine, but I do think these people like to wait. After breakfast Mr. B. & Mr. E. commenced sawing down some of the seats which had been placed in the parlor, not being through at 9 I went on the back stoop, gathered the sable crowd around me, told them 'twas school time & I would begin school there, after talking to them a little while we repeated the "Lord's Prayer", then after me said the verse "Suffer little children," sung "I want to be an angel", "I have a Father" & some others, not one book did I have, no slate, nothing, yet I was determined to commence school. Two, who had been to school on St. Helena, had a book, one a primer, one a "Second Reader," from these two books heard each one, most, of course, did not know the alphabet, four could read a little, spelling the words, many could count with a little assistance. After the room was ready took them there, 30 were present, two young mothers with nursing children, I question whether 'tis best to have these, then there are others too young to think of teaching, shall I let them come? This evening while coming down stairs with writing material my foot slipped, fell & spilled the ink on a clean calico dress. The loss of there ink the stained dress & skirt are great items here. The stairs are particularly awkward not I of course. After remov- the ink as best I could sat here at the table writing, Miss S. with me, we sit

on this long hard bench for rest, occasionally lean down on the table. Mr. Blake took the boat for Chs'tn this afternoon taking our letters to mail for us. Have sent home for many things without which it does not seem we could be comfortable, yet we live, when Mr. B. returns he will bring our month's rations we hope this time we shall have some flour or meal something "beside hardtack" though I do not dislike this very much. But the meat we cannot eat, in no way can we get fresh meat. But after all I should not say a word of complaint, we do not go hungry. One in such cases must just set aside the question of like & dislikes, eat without questioning, not for something good but to appease hunger.
'Tis May day but there ^are but few flowers just around us & I'm sorry there are no walks where 'tis pleasant, the soil is soft which makes hard walking, tis impossible to walk in any woods I have seen yet. One needs a horse here.

Tuesday May 2. What should I do for a schoolbell, was my question yesterday? Then I thought of the Accordeon Miss S. brought, hardly knowing what she should do with it, so told the children when they heard that sound (I made it for them) those who heard it must tell the others, then 'twould be time to get ready for school, at the second sound, they could come in the schoolroom, so at 8½ o'clk. one might have seen me walking around the house squeeking the accordeon at a fearful rate, thinking more of the amount of sound than of music. round & round I went, in the cabins nearest our door noticed my pupils stirring & bustling about, Ellen Nelson came to her door with a tin cup of water, with this she washed her face & hands. then to my surprise, refilled the cup & washed her mouth

& teeth, all do not come with faces & hands washed by any means.
On the other side of our door is Bess' cabin, where she lives with her husband and baby, but this morning Bess & her baby could not make all this stir, no, tis many of the children coming early were waiting there for the "Sound", then they were tossing & tumbling on the floor having a jolly good time, from other cabins they were coming, Hector Nelson lives just over to the south in that large cabin, he comes with "his child", I see him a long way off as he has on the little red shirt I saw him yesterday, then all along down that path which leads to what the people in the yard call the "settlement," being the place where most of the cabins are which belong to this plantation, one could see jumping & running along capless boys & bonnetless girls, all minus shoes & stockings, some with pants & some without, one girl with a dress made from a piece of carpeting, some barely covered, all poorly dressed & most of them very dirty. It seems to me they might at least come clean. I shall try first. At 9, at the second sound, they came in running & tumbling, big ones tumbling over little ones - little ones jumping up all the more eager for the open door, all rush for particular seats, then came a few minutes of calm as if their breath were spent. Meanwhile I had to be in & out attending to incidentals. In the calm I talked to them told them just what I expected them to do after this morning, how they must come through the hall, how & where to be seated & of the quiet there must be, all paid the most strict attention, many answered, "yes maam," "well then, bye & bye I shall let you all go out for play, you will have a recess,

then we will see who remembers what I have told you." "If you come in still I shall know you remembered & tried to please me," they did come in still, making almost a ludicrous appearance in their attempt, & did their best to please me all day. One boy, Ned Blake, reads & spells well but has no idea of numbers. 'Tis hard for me to learn their names, pointing to a boy or girl, would say "what is your name"? Repeating the ques. one ans. "Cupid, maam," "Cupid what"? said I. "Dunno maam," "well what do they call you beside Cupid"? "Nothing maam." In despair I try to think how to put the ques. in order to get the ans. when another boy speaks out & says, "say your title," "Oh you want my title maam, my title Wright," "then said I, "I shall call you Cupid Wright". The asking & learning their names just to write them down occupied nearly all the session. But I learned after a while to ask, "what is your title"? My patience was greatly tried with some of them but they really did their best, how can they immediately form the habit of giving two names when they have not been accustomed to such dignity. The little ones are bright & mitchy up to all sorts of fun but those 14 or 15 who have never been to school are earnest thus far beyond what I had expected. Miss Stanton commenced her school today. This evening while Miss S. & I sat here writing Mr. Ev. came in having been to head qr's telling us the soldiers are to withdrawn from the Island, as they are thought to be useless here. We are somewhat troubled at the news as only last week three prisoners were taken near the main land, for troubling the colored people, they had killed one man. We feel rather anxious and wish we had someone with whom we could talk on the subj: & know if there is really any

danger to be feared. We immediately thought of the pistol which we have in the house & wish we had learned to fire it. Here we are 6 or 7 miles from any white person! These colored people however are true friends & we retire though rather anxious for the future, yet feeling they will in any emergency do all they can for our protection.

Wed. May 3d Just trying to rest after school, very tired & lying down, when Dr. Mason, fr. camp, ~~camp~~ came, Miss S. & Mr. Ev. had gone over to "Michael Place" where he is to open his school. So I must see the Dr. He said a little ride would do me good so I mounted his horn "McClellan saddle", he said, & he, walking by my side, rode till we met them coming when I returned with them & the Dr. rode on, he tells us we need not fear the Regt's leaving.

Thurs. 4th After school while taking a scanty lunch, our rations almost gone, Mrs. Webb & Cap. Crissey rode up to take us to visit them we were gladly taken, rushed away our things, left all & went. Had a pleasant time read N. York papers, first we had seen since leaving home, we had heard in no way from the North, so these papers were quite homelike. They were full of the acc's of funeral ceremonies of our dear president. After a good supper or dinner which seemed sumptuous to us walked in the garden where the roses were yet in bloom, through the orange path to the circular fish pond - then saw the turtle pens, dairy & outbuildings, this place when in a flourishing, well kept condition, must have been elegant & in good taste ~~it is~~ the grounds not having been cultivated for three years are much overgrown with weeds & underbrush, the house & outbuildings have been worn by neglect & abused &

mutilated, both by the Rebels before leaving & since by our soldiers.
Our ride home was delightful, the moon shone on our road, at times making the way magnificent. The shadows among the immense oaks added a peculiar grandeur and as Capt. Crissey related many thrilling incidents of scenes through which he had passed since in the army we in our imagination almost saw the enemy darting from the dense forest on either side or creeping along in the tall broom grass or in the clear field a company might lie sleeping - And to help our imagination to give reality to the scenes our brain might create, he showed us his pistols, loaded - it seems, while at the table a note was brought to Cap. C. warning him of danger from guerrillas on the upper part of the Island. We had noticed his giving special orders for the night to his orderlies as we left camp & he had taken his pistols in case there should be danger - but just as any man would - laughed, whipped up his horse saying there was nothing to fear. I really enjoyed hearing their stories, or experiences, under the circumstances they seemed real to me, all such things, I find, interest me more here, where I can understand from things around me what soldier life is though, of course have not seen active soldier life - this is a very limited view. On the whole have enjoyed today. The ride & visit there was so much novelty in which I was interested that it rested me I find when school is out I am all exhausted, I am though learning to do better with these children & soon it will not have so much effect on me. Will not write of school scenes today have written all I can just now.

Friday 5. Spent a better day in school than yesterday, had more patience. The children are by no means disobedient but having no books, no slates, no blackboard & they accustomed to things free & easy & out of door life entirely, makes it more difficult to interest & instruct all. Then perhaps I have tried too much to have it as I would a school at home this at present I must not try for. Another thing which I have not mentioned which I think is wearing me more than all beside. Giving out clothing. Mr. Blake brought with him a large box of men, women & children's & not a day but what I have given out several pieces & though it gives me great pleasure to be able thus to make them more comfortable yet tis a great care. often during the day women will come with pressing claims I must leave the schoolroom, go upstairs, select the articles I think most suitable in all respects & then sometimes they don't fit I must try again & just as I am through with them others come whom I insist must wait till I dismiss, so they sit on the back seat in the schoolroom while I go on, the children having had a gay time in my absence & I tired from running up & down stairs etc. I have tried to have them come out of school hours, but how can they know the time, then when they come, & often a long way, I can't send them away without doing something for them. In this my first week in school I have learned more than my pupils. There have been so many scenes novel & interesting that I have attempted to speak of almost none. They are too numerous to mention. This morning we were feeling rather blue about our rations, having almost nothing in the house to eat

wondering what we could do, when this afternoon Lt. Jenkins rode up with a portion of our rations. We were delighted & overjoyed at the prospect of again having something to eat. We had no more hard tack, not even that as a last resort. Surely we felt we would not again distrust. The Lord will provide. Mr. Blake had sent these things to us from Beaufort as he would be detained & thought we would be in need of them. Among the articles is a broom, we as yet have had none, our floors have been swept by women we hired & they swept them with brooms of their own making, sometimes a quantity of broom grass tied together & sometimes a palmetto leaf the latter not however very servicable. We are tired & retire early. These days Mr. R. has been at Michael Plantation preparing for school he returned late tonight.

Saturday May 5. While attending to sweeping & scouring wrote to Cedar St. School at home. As they do not clean the floors well they must be done often & in time they may be brought to look well. Today the rooms look better as we have the luxury of a new broom & I thought of the adage.

I should have introduced Joe before this. Joe is an old man, Mr. B.'s servant, he did not come till the boat after we came, & brought Mr. B.'s horse. Well he has been doing, to some extent, our cooking, washing dishes and the like, but today he is sick & to be waited upon, poor man! half the day he has been in the fireplace with chills, then missing him found him on the floor in his room with the fever, so have been trying to make him comfortable. He was formerly a butler in Charleston is a fine man, really gentlemanly in his appearance & address.

This afternoon took a little ride on the horse, mean to learn to ride as it is the only way

way we can get about here all places are beyond walking distance &
the ground is so soft it makes the walking very uncomfortable.

Sunday May 7. Beautiful day. Had breakfast as early as on other days. Then took a book & went to that beautiful oak just a little way from the house. This tree is grand, a large green dome it forms as we look at it from the house, & as we sit under its immense branches, reaching the ground on all sides, it forms a complete pavilion around us. Here one can sit in perfect secrecy not being noticed by those who pass. But few came to our S. School as I forgot to tell the children Friday and they need to be reminded. Dr. Mason, & a Mr. Dwute just from the North called. Spent a little while sitting on Billy Nelson's doorsteps reading to his family & others who gathered. Read the birth, crucifixion & ascension of Christ, these people love to hear the Bible read, as they cannot read themselves they appreciate all the more. The old men asked me many questions which showed they were entirely ignorant of Bible history. Of Moses they have quite a correct idea but do not know whether he lived before or after Christ, one of the men, as if not quite certain, asked me about it. And this evening we have been to a little prayer-meeting with Joe, in that cabin near, where little Hector Nelson lives. But few were there, not more than a dozen. I cannot give any correct idea of how things seemed to me. The room was larger than ~~too~~ most of its kind and in it was, we could see by the flickering firelight, all sorts of remnants of articles once used as furniture. I sat on a broken chair

just behind me was a piece of an old spinning wheel & on the wall was stretched the skin of some animal drying. John Nelson lead the meeting by praying then all sang, not one of their songs, but one familiar in our home meetings. Then Joe prayed, repeated passages of Scripture and talked well, giving good, simple, practical advice and in excellent language. On the shelf, over the huge fire-place, burned a stick of wood, the stick lying on the shelf the blaze extending over & a weight to keep it in place on the other end. When the meeting was nearly closed Joe asked Miss Stanton and me to say something, not feeling that we could, offered to read a hymn, or a chapter from the Bible, so each read a hymn & after we had finished asked us to read it again that they might sing. So as we read two lines they sang, thus going through the hymns- John found a long meter tune for the short meter hymn but I don't think it troubled any of them for by repeating & prolonging it went quite artistically. During the singing Joe said, "why don't you let out your voices like these white sisters, don't be afraid- They sound like trumpets". They closed by singing the doxology, "To God the Father" 'Twas a very pleasant meeting, whether our presence made it more quiet, less demonstrative I cannot tell but it was quiet, there is no loud, excited shouting, but apparent fervent devotion. Then too it was much shorter than their usual meetings, not exceeding an hour & a half. I spoke to Joe of this, telling him I liked this better than their very long meetings (that at home we were not together for evening worship usually longer than this.

May 8. Monday. Pleasant day in school. 40 were present. All seem eager to learn and if we only have books and school conveniences we would without doubt make wonderful progress. 'Tis a pleasure to teach when one has so attentive pupils. Dandy Holmes' book is in his hand, with his eyes intently upon it ~~with~~ his lips moving all the time, even at recess he lies under a cedar tree still with his book. He is doing finely. though now he can read but words of three or four letters yet he tries so hard he will succeed. It has been showering this afternoon and we have sat here in our chamber sewing a little, writing and doing all sorts of odd jobs. Mr. Everett came home drenched with rain as our flour didnot come with our rations he went to hunt it up, thinking, through mistake it might have been taken from the boat to the Commissaries (Mr. A.) but he could learn nothing of it, so we have none, no bread, but rice & rice.

May 9. Tuesday. After school, & dinner over I on Mr. B.'s horse & Mr. Ev. on foot, started for Eddingsville. The ride was delightful, now through magnificent woods, then through cotton fields, and again through a growth of young pines. The roaring of the ocean growing louder & louder told us of our approach to the sea-side. but the first sight completely astonished me, the high, white crested surf, the distant white caps & blue waters. Oh 'twas grand! This little strip of land, the summer resort of the wealthy planters of Edisto, is a peculiar spot. We, or rather I, rode along the beach, 'twas hard & firm with many shells. The summer houses are built as near high-tide as is safe. With the exception of two we found them empty not having

been inhabited since the war. We entered many of them going through the different rooms — 'Twas fun enough, this racing alone in these empty desolate houses — One could imagine all sorts of romantic stories of their former occupants — questioning their present whereabouts & what the future has in store for them. 'Tis a desolate place but for the ocean — one sees but little of vegetation beside the diabolical palmetto & hideous hedges of Yucca — We found blackberries, however, in abundance, but eagerly rushing to pick the first I saw was rather unpleasantly introduced to the Yucca, one of the daggers piercing my head making the blood run freely — I hardly liked their acquaintance & avoided them as much as possible — but the prickly pear, though I did try & avoid it, would pierce through my boots not very agreeably. Passion flowers we saw which were beautiful. The sun was low & started for home, I was very, very tired, walking through the tangled underbrush of three year's growth is very exhausting, then too I was hungry. Two of the houses, as I said, were occupied, in one a good Auntie had given me a cup of water & I noticed on her fire a "hoe cake" baking — & now, as I rode along my hunger brought to mind the inviting cake & I ventured to stop, tell her I was hungry & beg a piece of her cake. She seemed most happy to have me taste her cooking — a bright bow from my hair delighted her & she seemed well paid with it — Our ride home was by the light of the moon for after sunset 'tis dark — 'Twas delightful. Though I heard a rattlesnake only went on a little the faster & then back to meet Mr. Ernst, who, being on foot, could not keep up with me all the way as I was anxious to try a canter, really I am succeeding quite well in learning to ride.

As our return was rather later than we anticipated Miss S. had been rather troubled about us. Ate heartily of what we had for supper our hunger giving a good relish.

Wednesday May 10. I had no idea my ride of yesterday would have so much effect on me today—why I'm lame and 'tis with much trouble I can walk. This is the warmest day we have had. Celia rather disobedient in School, she evidently loves School & is attached to me, but has a bad temper, & how should she, who has never been taught, know how to control it. Her mother, who came to see me about her after School, said, "You must lick her, she's a bad girl." But I think she will try to do better after this. While sitting here on the piazza writing, Cap. Crinny drove up, said our rations were at the back door, it seems the flour had not been sent from Beaufort before. How thankful we were to receive it! Cap. C. took letters for us to send by the return boat, though there is no regularity to the boats coming yet they average a trip about once a week, but when to expect it no one ever knows—& way off here, 6 miles from the landing, we should never know, it seems to me, but for the officers at camp. Miss Stanton took a ride this afternoon over to Beckett plantation, she returned followed by a man bringing a chair & a pint of milk!! What luxuries! The chair we purchased of an old woman giving her articles of which she is more in need & more valuable to her.

Thursday May 11. Today has indeed been eventful. Our first letters - letters from home! Well, but I must write all about it. Just before dinner Mr. Blake returned from Chs'ton. We were delighted to see him. We hoped he would bring letters as our first were to be directed to Chs'ton, yet I hardly dared ask & how long the minutes seemed that he looked for them. I trembled with excitement. Not one word since we had left, the 15 of Apr. A whole package I had - Eagerly I commenced to read when Mr. B. said, "don't stop to read letters now, two ladies have come with me from Chs'ton - teachers - their rations are left behind & you must try and hunt them up something to eat" - Of course there was nothing cooked in the house except just for our present dinner, but sent beans, bacon etc. wishing it were more. Then the boy off with them read our letters, then Mr. B. told us of the teachers who had come, Misses Bliss and Ames from Springfield, Mass. We were greatly delighted at the prospect of two ladies added to our limited society and urged to go & see them at once but he said they were at the "Mscott" place, three miles from here, too far for us to walk & that he must return to them as soon as dinner was over.

Friday May 12. Well, last night after Mr. Blake left us to go to the teachers, just arrived, we began to talk & wonder if we could not walk - We wanted so much to see them but I, who am so great a walker at home, thought the distance too great, as walking here, even a little distance, is very tiresome but Mr. Er. & Miss S. thought 'twas not too far - It being cloudy made it all the more pleasant, so started, took a pail of nice blackberries, thinking they would be an acceptable gift. The walk was indeed long, so long, through the soft slippery sand.

but at length reached the "Mscott place", there was Mr. B. on the piazza, who, when he saw us exclaimed, "You crazy children"! then introduced us to Miss Bliss & Miss Ames. We sat & talked as fast as our tongues could fly, sometimes all at once, then a calm when all listened to the story which was most interesting or marvelous. But soon we heard thunder, the clouds grew black & we must hasten home, but the ladies said we must stay for a cup of tea & we were refreshed with some they brought from home & real Boston crackers - They must have had a much more correct idea of the manner in which they were to live than we, & they have brought many conveniences with them which we could have brought with ease, if we had known our needs. As Mr. B. was not needed by the ladies he decided to go with us, though he expected to remain sometime with them. We started I with Mr. B. on his horse. Novel position decidedly - 'Twas with great difficulty I kept my seat at all, but I knew 'twould be almost impossible for me to walk, so clung with all my might. but 'twas no use, we were but to the corner when I felt myself slipping & fearing, lest I drag Mr. B. with me, loosened my hold of him & slid to the ground. So Miss S. mounted & rode with better success, I walking with Mr. E. The darkness was densely black, made even more so by the vivid flashes of lightening, soon rain must overtake us - What should we do! I said to Mr. E. "I don't believe I can go on, this walking is terrible to me I feel so sick", while speaking heard a shout through the blackness from Mr. B., "Michael Place." but two words, but in an instant -

we comprehended we were to stop there, it being but a little way from the road. The thought of stopping, even in this empty, desolate house, gave me strength to plod on. We found our way through a newly planted cotton field, without falling into any ditches, to the house. I threw myself on the piazza, so thankful not to take another step. Then the rain came, great sheets poured from the heavens. From one of the cabins they brought us some wood, made us a fire & we went in through one of the windows. The rooms were spacious, desolate, & showed the builder had more money than good taste. From several boards which we found in the rooms fixed ~~them~~ a lounging place for the night but there was no sleep - All would be quiet a few moments, then one rose up and all agree on an improved plan for our couches, then place this board this way & that that way, then quiet again & almost in dream-land Mr. Ev. thought 'twas for his health & comfort to pace back & forth, back & forth on the piazza. We all voted the clanking & tramping was unbearable - After a time the walker slept - The moon shone out brightly after the rain had ceased, but everything was so wet 'twas not best to go home - As sleep was impossible talked till the morning came when one slept & I looked about the house from the door, saw large mulberry trees, Japonicas, Oleanders and many more. The shower of the night had added to their beauty & all was gay & smiling. As the sun rose, reminding us 'twould soon be hot for our home journey, began to make arrangements how we were to proceed with the one horse. Mr. Ev. had already gone. 'Twas a long time before we could come to any satisfactory decision & all sorts of comical vehicles were suggested for my conveyance. But at length I started

on the horse, which was to be sent immediately back for the others. How slow the horse walked! I could not bear the trot. How long it took to reach our home. On the way met several of my children, told them I could not teach them today. Two young men, in whom I had become greatly interested, met me stopped & talked with them, when I told them there would be no school they looked so disappointed. I remarked I wish I had a book with me or piece of paper to see if you remember the letters I told you yesterday, when one drew from his pocket a little piece of paper on which I had made some letters for him to learn so I could hear him read, right there in the cotton field, & on horseback from a piece of paper like this, O i g X W, such as I give them having no books. & of this scrap of paper they are very choice never losing it. Reaching home found Joe had been anxious for us had breakfast already. Sent the horse back & when Miss S. & Mr. B. returned I was nicely in bed & almost asleep. During the afternoon Mrs. Webb drove up to take us to head qt's, where we had accepted an invitation to visit till Sunday I could not go Miss S. did not feel at all like it but went. Shortly after she started Mr. B. went to see Misses Bliss & Ames expecting to return tonight but 'tis now late he has not come think something detains him over night so return to sleep again.

Monday 15th. Pleasant day in School, nothing very special, we think the children progress, especially those who are learning the alphabet. Those who can read a little try hard to improve, their spelling is much better than their reading. They love to count & add small numbers & sometimes get quite excited in trying to see who will give the correct ans. first.

Saturday morning was feeling much better than the day before. Mr. W. & I breakfasted alone as Mr. B. did not return last night. Then went out in search of a cook as Joe is not competent to do for us. Went to the neighborhood where Miss S. had her School, there found a woman who has cooked for white people, engaged her to come for one month, on trial, as she lives near she prefers to spend the nights at her cabin — So Mary Fishpond comes today. After taking this little walk came home arranged things a little, lay down, when Mr. B. returned just as Lt. Jenkins & Mrs. Webb rode up to take me home with them, said Miss S. would not return till the next morning & they promised to bring me back with them. So left all & started, found N. York papers to read. In the evening had music, Cap. C. read aloud. In the morning went out with Lt. J. to see the inspection of two companies was interesting to me as I had never seen anything of the kind before. After inspection Capt. C. brought us home. Mr. B. & Mr. E. had made some improvements in our parlor which added much to its good looks. Mr. Emery, Mr. Alden's assistant, called in the evening. Capt Crissey, this afternoon brought Dr. Buckman, fr. Beaufort, up to see Mr. Blake, this hindered us from taking a little ride we had planned. & today passes with but little to mark its coming or going. Oh yes, one thing we have the easy chair of which I have spoken. Mr. B. went over to see the woman who had it & made satisfactory arrangements

with her for us to have it. It really looks quite grand, now we have two chairs.

Tuesday May 16. Today I have some books, they are some Mr. B. purchased of Mrs. Wight. Primers & First Readers. though they are not the series I would prefer yet any are better than none. The children are delighted.

Wednesday, 17. After dinner yesterday went to Eddingsville. Mr. B. & Miss S. on one horse & I on another. My horse did not behave well at all was disobedient & disagreeable but reached the bay the breeze was delightful. tide low, beach hard & fine for riding. raced round among the empty houses, found plenty of the finest blackberries. When we thought time best to go home found the tide was too high to think of crossing the creek which separates this strip of land from the main Island - the bridge is impassable, so we camped out another night, of course in an empty house. ate our luncheon which we brought, with our berries, had a comfortable night. I brought my large plaid shawl, with this & the saddles for pillows tis quite a couch - part of the night on the piazza & part in the house - The horses we put in an empty stable. The air was delightful this morning & the ride home at sunrise was charming - Good appetite for breakfast, and vigorous for school work.

This afternoon have been sitting under these grand old live-oak - making arrangements to invite our friends from H'qrs to dine with us Saturday. They have been so kind to us we feel we would like to do it if we can. But the idea at first seemed

laughable, our inviting company, with our limited supply for table.
A bill of fare was written out & all went to the house to compose the note of invitation
Miss S. was obliged to write, as its her work housekeeper. Mr. B. took it with him
as he was going to the other teachers & could send it on to h'qts.
Friday 19. Mr. Everett thinks 'tis best for him to go to the "Michael place where he has
his school, to remain, as the walk is too long for him. Jr, who though not
well has remained with us, has consulted the Dr. who says 'twill be better
for him to remain at the hospital where he can have his abscess dressed everyday.
So he leaves us, we like him & shall miss him. Mr. B. returned today brought
me one letter, disappointed 'twas not from home. From the papers we learn Jeff.
Davis is captured, good news! We hear but little news, the papers are old when
they reach us. Bye & bye we hope to have them more regularly. Now they are often
detained at Beaufort or Hilton Head. The wonderful note of invitation was not delivered
as Mr. B. found some of the party had gone to Beaufort so we defer inviting till they return.
Saturday 20. This morning while Mr. B. Ev. & Miss S. were gone to Eddingsville,
to make some arrangements for our summer residence there, & to get some black-
berries, I made a lot of sugar cookies - the process of baking was slow as we have
only a little baking kettle, which we borrowed from Priscilla & could bake but 6 or 8
at a time, but the hungry travellers pronounced them excellent on their return.
They brought no berries but had decided on a house. While writing on the piazza
Lt. Jenkins & Mrs. Webb rode up brought me a package of letters from home.
Extended an invitation for them & our other friends at camp to dine with
us next Wednesday.

Sunday 21. Very pleasant. Last night went to all the cabins within walking distance & asked all the parents to meet me this morning directly after breakfast in the schoolroom. There were many things I wished to say to them more especially the mothers and I looked forward to having a pleasant & profitable meeting with them as most seemed to think they should come. But alas! In vain I waited this morning, in vain have I waited all day. None have come. We were to have our Sabbath School in Miss S.'s schoolroom thinking it a more convenient place. Mr. B. & Miss S. went & I PS waited, but no, night closes in none came. At twilight took my Bible went to Bess's cabin and read to a number who were there the Sermon on the Mount. Asked why the people did not come to see me as I asked & was told most in the neighborhood went to the church to service, three miles, & did not return in time. I am greatly disappointed.

May 22. Miss S. not feeling well bat home today. Made an apron for kitchen as it's my week housekeeper. Began the week well in school. Good number present, good attention. The clothing Mr. B. brought adds much to the comfort of the children & PS more to their tidy appearance. Many come very dirty, but I begin to think in most cases it cannot be helped. Not many have more than one suit, in this they work in the fields from early morning till school time. Many to gain my approval come much cleaner than at first.

After dinner Mr. B. commenced reading aloud Dicken's "Great Expectations." then he & I went to "Beckett place", walked one way the other rode on the horse with him. this time had a successful ride, accomplished our errand, which was to engage some milk & a little butter for next Wednesday. It will be but little as the woman has but one cow & she gives but one quart a day. Before coming upstairs tonight made some bread - wonder what 'twill be, one thing I intended to have done before leaving home - learn to make good bread. but I didnt so now am learning by sorry experience -

Tuesday 23d. Our dinner today was quite homelike. The people brought us vegetables, first we have had. After dinner, I said to Mary "didnt I get up a better dinner than Miss S. last week - "She. quite Yankeelike said in reply, "yes but where bread didnt rise in time for breakfast this morning."

Wed. 24. Morn. Well this is the day we expect our company. I am house keeper so am busy as a bee. For our dinner plan to have Clam-chowder!! fried eggs, peas & beans, beets & a pudding. Are to dine at 4, our usual hour. x x x Night - The wonderful company have been & gone. All young housekeepers have their trials 'tis said - this has been such a day! Dismissed school at 12, was in the kitchen, Miss S. not yet come fr. school - The dining-parlor all in confusion, our sleeping room ditto, "only more so", our boards we use for tables having been taken down to enlarge our dining table, our things all in heaps on the floor, strange mixture of books, papers, toilet & all sorts. but we would have time to arrange things, it was all planned, before they came, when Mary throwing up both hands exclaimed

"There they are they come." What was I to do! Why had they come at this hour, when we told them dinner at 4. How could one appear at ease and act the part of a welcome hostess? After sitting with them a few moments excused myself went to my room to see if anything could be done to make it a little more compact for Mrs. Webb had come ~~with~~ her riding habit & wished to change it for one she brought with her. She & Lt. J. had come & hardly thought the others would be able to leave. While Mrs. W. dressed Miss S. came we consulted what could be done. Soon Mr. B. & Ev. came all covered with mud had been to Eddingsville to clean the cistern of the house we are to occupy this summer of course they were surprised that the company had come at this hour. & Mr. B. as usual helped us in our dilemma.

I expatiated on the beauties and comfort of our great oak & taking a great dish of blackberries sat in its cool shade, meanwhile my thoughts were in the house wondering if the table was being enlarged by the gents. how Miss S. was succeeding with the pudding.

Soon Miss S. came out & I went in the table was just the size with the addition cleared up the chips set the table had things all arranged heard horses & lo & behold if there were not two more, Lt. Glidden & Dr. Mason, meeting them in the hall directed them about their horses & told them I would have to be excused a while but they would find the others under the tree. So Flew round put two more plates on odd ones of course at length our repast was pronounced

ready but minus clam chowder — W. B. brought them with him rather late told Mary how to cook them but unfortunately she did not understand & they were spoiled & one dish from our limited store gone. rather serious matter. Then too when I came to slice the ham — we had congratulated ourselves upon our good fortune in having one — was so warm it would not cut well & I had nothing but a common case knife & dull at that. but Mary fries eggs finely so had it served with eggs. After all to those who were not behind the scenes our dinner was quite fine. Rather short for dishes — but then all have been accustomed to camp life & know what it is to lack furnishings. Some things were comical. But I am glad we made this attempt. Our company left at sundown — & we have laughed & chatted over the incidents of the day. My first experience as hostess has not been the most agreeable —

Thursday May 26. The children begin to understand more when 9 o'clk. comes and do not come as early in the morning as they did. Those who work in the field are often obliged to come late, but they do the best they can and as nearly as I can tell do not loiter on the way — they enjoy this coming to school, whether tis the novelty or what I cannot tell, but I should not think the younger ones could appreciate education to so great a degree as to make them thus earnest. Juno Simmons is a smart little girl one of the most attractive. often she yawns, says, "I want to go home." If she has done well I usually say, "well Juno you may go" she lives near & often runs back again. I think she is hungry & goes for something to eat. Ellen Nelson who lives in the nearest cabin I do believe would like to stay all day.

While at dinner Capt. Crissey & Mr. Hall drove up, put two more plates on the table & they sat with us. the boat had been in & they had come way up here to bring us our mail.

Friday 26. But few were at school today a heavy rain in the night has beaten down the corn so that all are in the fields who are large enough to handle the hoe. Thunder all the morn. frequent showers. This evening the sky has been beautiful.

Saturday 27. A few days since a woman came to us to get a place as cook as we were supplied could not take her she was just from the Rebels was weak and worn had her little babe with her. Did what we could to make her comfortable gave her a frock for the little one & she went to one of the cabins washed & dressed it then its clothes. Today she has been to see us again but with no babe, that is dead. We gave her garden seed as she has found a piece of land.

This evening was cool had a fire which took the chill off & made the room cheerful, while sitting talking in its pleasant light, heard an unusual sound for evening. The tramp of horses & voices of horsemen. Capts. Crissey & Storrs had come at this late hour & this very dark night way from H'qts to bring our mail, said the boat would not leave till morning so they waited a little while for us to prepare our mail to send.

Sunday 28. Cool & pleasant. Sabbath school at Miss S. schoolroom. After singing several S. S. hymns, Mr. B. read from the Bible talked to them called upon one of their number to offer prayer– All kneel even the youngest & perfect quiet reigns. As there were but three of us, Mr. B. took the men, Miss S. the little ones & I the women. The hour was profitable to me. And though I sat as their teacher felt that I had learned more than they.

Monday 29. Miss S. not feeling able to be in school to-day her pupils came over here & I had decidedly a full school, but enjoyed it all more good– the strangers were pleased to visit & the others to receive company.

A man brought us some clams, which Mary cooked nicely. Just at night Messrs Alden the Sup. his brother from St. Helena Dr. Wooster surgeon for the D. & Williams Sup. on St. Helena called had never met any of them before. Before leaving Mr. Alden invited us to pass next Thursday with them. First will call & take us to church as will be Fast day, appointed on account of the assination of our President.

May 31 Wednesday. It troubles me that my school is not larger and I fear there are not children enough on this plantation for us each to have as large number as we each could teach. Would be impossible for us to walk to any other place, if we only had a horse one could teach all the children here & the other ride to another plantation, but we are here & settled & will not be best to make a change till after summer vacation. We may find the same difficulty then, meanwhile we shall be looking round to see where we are most needed & where is a good place for a school.

June 1st Thursday. Fastday appointed by President Johnson. on account of the assination of our late President.

Dr. Wooster came in Mr. Alden's carriage to take us to the church where religious services were to be held. Reaching the church found it was already crowded also the front steps and many in the road. Room was made for us. we entered by a back entrance through the pulpit as I first caught a glimpse of the mass of black people before me, I was, for a moment, completely astonished. Seats, galleries, aisles & around the pulpit full of people, with men sitting in the windows. Many an auntie had a piece of black fastened around her gay turban mourning for our common loss. The services had already commenced as we entered the leader was reading a hymn two lines at a time then they sang & again he read two more lines thus going through the hymn. Then he addressed the people he said but little of the President but spoke as one often hears them exhort in our colored meetings at home. Then others spoke. Mr. Walker & Mr. Downey. Mr. Alden the Sup. delivered a short eulogy suitable to the audience then Mr. Blake spoke to them earnestly & feelingly of our loss, of what Pres. Lincoln had been to us as a nation & to the colored man in particular.

Friday June 2d After our return last night retired immediately. This morning Mr. Everett started off on a trip over the Is. for two days, so we are all alone in the house. We urged him not to go till Mr. B.'s return, there is no real danger in our being alone as the people are so kind & those who live in the ford could come to our assistance at any time. We find our Mary very faithful, she is not specially neat in the kitchen but things come on the table in good order. I would trust her with anything. As her cotton needs her attention she works in the field till its time to get our breakfast then we see her coming, often bringing something for kindling on her head and in her hand, between two sticks, coals of fire. I think she never has asked for a match but manages to get fire in some way. Breakfast through & cleared away she gets directions for our dinner, which does not often vary from one day to another, then goes home till about 3 o'clk. when she comes to get our second & last meal. She is usually all through at 5. Of course when she washes or irons she is here most of the day, but we think her crop should be the first thing & detain her here as little as possible. This week my school though small, much smaller than I

week, has been pleasant & those who have come have been here punctually. Every Friday I give a little card to those who have not been absent during the week, a few have had one every week. For many it would be impossible to get one as they are obliged to be absent to work in the field, go to the Commissary for rations or "mind child." But the little card incites & pleases them.

The musquitoes annoy us beyond anything I had thought of. They swarm in our sleeping room every night we drive them out and kill as many as we can but in a few minutes after being in bed 'tis buzz, buzz, sting, sting. I brought a piece of netting I had no idea how much to bring & 'tis altogether too small to be of much use. The fleas torment us day & night. Sand flies, very small insects, come about 4 o'ck. in the afternoon they do not bite badly but are troublesome. Then these insects keep us busy enough – Are they of any use. Of course they are, but what.

Sunday June 4. Pleasant but warm, no 'tis hot. Billy Wilson invited us to ride to church with him in his cart. These carts are the most uncomfortable things for riding I ever saw. The horses & harness are not to be spoken of. The ride was very long, horse walked, all the way musquitoes swarmed around us, but we fought them diligently with our large palm leaf fans.

The service was very long. A man conducted the service who is a leader on St. John's Island. I do not feel like writing about it we were very tired & twas so hot. I fear I was not benefited. Our Sabbath school we have changed to 5 in the afternoon at this hour is more convenient for the people. Felt paid for going around among the people last night & urging them to come.

as we had a good number. 65. Miss S. & I were alone but had a pleasant school.
Monday June 5. Though so tired last night slept almost none the misquitoes troubled us so. First thing on looking out this morning saw we had new neighbors" just from the Rebs", they said, they must have come late last night. Went out & had a talk with the woman, she is a strange looking piece of humanity, tall & large, looking as if used to the hardest of field labor. They have taken the little stone house back of Bess' cabin, 'tis so small for any one to live in, with no chimney - But these people used to belong to James Whaley, the former owner of this plantation, so of course they prefer to return to their old home, working for themselves where they used to work for their master. After we had eaten our breakfast carried them a pot of coffee & some hominy - They already had a fire made in front of the door & some meal on boiling, these people when they are sent from Chs'ton usually have 10 days rations given them. This afternoon, during a very heavy shower, looked out saw Mr. B. coming with the rations, of course in an open cart. So we have been busy enough. The worked was disagreeable enough. The flour was wet on top & must be emptied from the barrell, all the hard tack to be placed before the fire, in short every thing had to be changed - Mary was busy washing. 'Twas almost night before we thought of dinner. We are tired tonight but nothing spoiled except a few pounds of flour.
June 6th Though so tired last night the misquitoes & fleas tormented us so we slept but little. Have done nothing since school. The woman who has just come from the Rebs came & sat on our piazza talked partly to herself & partly to us of the Whaleys. Told us, when the guns first sound her massa leave all & run, leave his new house ebry ting take we niggers & run.

Wed. June 7. Shall I write musquitoes! Fleas! on every page they are ever present torments. Mr. Ev. took his departure for Peter's Point. Mr. Hall called, goes to Beaufort tomorrow, took our letters. The cow & calf Mr. Alden gave us came to night, cow was in an exhausted condition, lay down immediately & twas with great difficulty she was raised from the ground. Mr. B. & I commenced our evening school in Miss S.'s schoolroom, she, not being well could not go with us. Mr. Gord, taught them in concert. Mostly grown people. Shower while coming home though the stars were shining brightly. Appointed the next ev. schl. in my room Friday night. After we came home we strained the beer which Mr. B. had been making from some roots, & twas late when we retired. The water is so poor we try & get up something as a substitute & this beer, if it works well, will be good for us.

Thursday 8. Almost in despair exclaim how much longer can we bear these tormentors & retain our reason! 'Tis a serious matter. Last night slept none. We lay quiet a while then the remainder of the night & till the first rays of light this morning — repeated verses — counted backward & forward, said the multiplication table & all sorts of thing to while away the hours. Would get up, shake all the bedding, even turning the bed sacking. Then surely there would be no fleas but soon the miserable villians would find their way back & be as jolly at our expense as before. Our floors are washed often, or I should say flooded, this does some good. Miss S. was not able to go to school so her children came to me — but I was

so sleepy, though I walked the room, could not go on had a short session & dismissed. Lay down, nature could bear it no longer & I slept an hour. And what will to-night be?!

Friday June 9. Another dull day in school. The woman just from the Reb. quite sick nursing her. They are often sick when they first come, from exposure, long long marches following in the wake of our army to some city of refuge. Those around us came through Beaufort or Ch'ston.

Our evening scholars came late tonight, room full — good attention. Am tired & retire immediately

Sunday June 10. What are we to do these days! No sleep, no sleep; night after night. Last night had a new misquito net up which did some good but the fleas nothing can keep them away. Rose as soon as 'twas light, but what could I do, to remain in my room impossible, even while bathing and dressing, as quickly as possible, one gets covered & 'tis sting, sting, sting! Go to our parlor? There the little torments are too, reading impossible. I go out doors there they are, but do not notice them so much while walking. Go along by the woods — gather some Elder flowers & beautiful fern leaves, looking across the field notice a large number of people coming — What does it mean at this early hour! Where have they been! Or where are they going! I cross the path and ask, One answers. "We been to praise mum". "What, so early in the morning"? I ask, in surprise, wondering if they have their worship so early. "No, mum we been out all night we praise long." What did you do, I asked, "We sings & prays & dance & cry answered a young woman giving a most

peculiar laugh. So our yard around the cabin doors has been flecked with these people stopping on their way from their night praise. I just had a talk with Bess, who seems perfectly exhausted from her night wake. Of course to all my questionings she justified their course. "We feel so good now," she said throwing both arms up over her head, "I go to bed now & get sleep." Had we known of this pain probably they had a "shout" we would have gone as we cannot sleep it would have been just as well for us. As I walked on my thoughts were questioning - What could be done & how to turn these people from these ways. It must be done gradually, thoughtfully & with great care. God, if we seek it, will give us wisdom & show us the way.

About 3 o'clk. this afternoon Mr. Alden came, just from church service, remained with us as he was going to Beaufort & will take a small boat in the creek near here. S. S. at 5. Mr. A. went with us Mr. Blake read Mr. A. offered prayer. 63 present. Mr. Curtis from Peter's Point called to see Mr. A.

Monday, June 12. Rose at 3½ musquitoes & fleas reign! Found Mr. A. could not remain in his room & had taken to the diningroom. He wonders how we endure it says there are many more insects here than any other place he has been & that if he were in our place he would go to Edingsville at once & not wait till July. Mr. B. had decided to go to B. with Mr. A. made them some coffee & got their breakfast early but as usual the men who were to go in the boat did not come as

early as they expected. Put up bread & coffee for them to eat on the way. They hope to return Wednesday.

June 13. Tuesday. Many absent from school, the older ones hoeing their corn & cotton. while the younger ones "min corn." But think they do the best they can, coming when tis possible - Their crops, of course, must first be attended to. Some have already learned their alphabet & have commenced to read small words. Had a pleasant exercise today in adding numbers - I usually give them such ques. as these, 4 eggs & 2 eggs are how many? If you have 4 eggs & break 3 of them how many whole ones would you have? Usually take eggs for illustration as they are used to counting them. A few of them can add or subtract quite large numbers. They all enjoy their arithmetic as they love to call it. Most of them now can count to 100. & those who read tell the page in their reading book. They learn to spell more rapidly than to read. In spelling they catch the sound & retain it. I spend a few moments each day spelling in concert. Today they learned to spell, horse, many would persist in spelling it h.o.u.s.e. so printed it on a scrap of paper for those who had not learned it. Today has been very warm & while sitting in our parlor doing nothing a woman Jenny Eldridge Celia's mother came to know if I had a frock pattern, no I hadnt - could I offer to cut it for her this warm sultry afternoon, It looked like a great piece of work as I never had attempted such a thing, but in a moment said I will try & cut it for you - I presume, she did not doubt for a moment my ability to do it. So the dress was brought & I pinned the lining on as I have had dressmakers do for me. I thought its greatest merit would be to have it large enough, for

She is a huge thing, and even this hot day had on I don't know how many waists & fixings all to be worn under her dress. I've cut it & wonder how it will set could not try it at all till 'tis cooler.
After "school Miss S. & I covered the old sofa frame Mr. Ev. brought, with a piece of print & it stands on the piazza & answers very well for a seat.
Wed. 14. Our cow died this noon. I had just succeeded in getting some corn for her, when Fortman came saying "she's dead". How disappointed we are. We had planned so many good things we would have with the milk. She has been here but a week. The calf is as happy as ever. We think the walk in the hot sun must have been too much for the cow thus if she was in good condition when she started. Mr. B. not come.
Thurs. 15. So weak & miserable. Think 'tis the heat & want of sleep. Dr. Mason called says I must keep quiet, thinks we ought not to teach another day this summer but it seems too soon to give up as when we do cannot commence again till Oct. Dr. tells us Mr. Ev. is sick & at the "Wescott Place with Misses Bliss & Ames. He tells us no letters came in the last steamer from the North we have been wondering why we did not get letters.
Friday 16. Sent a note to Mr. Ev. early this morning enquiring after his health & inviting him if he is able to come here. In reply says he is some better & will get here tomorrow if he can. Lt. Jenkens & Mrs. Webb rode up & brought some thing we had sent to Beaufort for by him. My slates & pencils came purchased them with part of the money Mr. Bartlett gave me to use for these people. Gave 4.00 for ten slates rather high, but if I could not have them without I would be willing

to give twice the amount. Ev. School here, very warm, they came so late had almost given up their coming — Some very earnest & some come for fun.

Sat. June 17. My birthday! the first I have spent from home since '53 then was with Aunt Hawes in New Hampshire. Our Mary Dick so we are doing for ourselves — Miss S. & I have been here alone this week — Ironing a little! Heard Billy Nelson was ill. At 3 we took Harden Richardson's team & started for Peter's Point to purchase a few articles at Mr. Curtis' store. Neither of us had ever been there before & such a time as we have had! But we needed the things & this made us attempt almost anything, then we had been shut up so long for 'tis impossible to walk! We reached the store all right, wonderful to relate with one of these teams. After making our purchases the clouds looked dark but thought would have time to reach home before the shower, or it might pass over, but we were on our way but about a mile when the wind began to blow furiously & we saw the rain falling in great sheets but a short distance from us soon we would meet. Made all preparations possible — Both of us were dressed very thin & with thin muslin, only a crocheted shawl over me, fortunately had my plaid shawl in for a cushion this wrapped round both as well as we could but 'twas impossible to keep our umbrellas up — the rain came & in ten minutes our backs were as wet as if we had just taken a bath. The horse did his best & that was well. A little further on & Miss S. attempted to hold her umbrella when away it flew first lodged between the horse & cart then fell & the wheel passed over it. Miss S. said let it go of course 'twas spoiled but I said when the hot sun comes out you will need it so much,

then it lay quite a way back, the rain pouring the wind blowing.
What a job to get out of one of these carts! The chaise was whole.
In again & on when the cloth these darks always have under what
they call the saddle began to slip what should we do would it
hold till we could reach home & we watched with anxious interest—
It was surely going & then we stood in the beating rain our feet in
water more than an inch deep trying to understand the philosophy
of the complicated harness with its numerous ropes chains & straps.
But we fastened it securely! How much one can do when obliged to!
We dreaded the "slough," as we call it, it's very bad at high tide at the
drypest times & what would it be now? As we came to it the horse
stopped looked—& I presume of course thought whether he'd venture
in with his valuable cargo, then as if desperate gave a sudden
& strong pull & we were safe on the other side. The worst was over.
But we began to be chilly—~~what~~ first one stood then our arms quickly
back & forth & exercised all we could to get warm. As we came into our
yard the cabins were closed not a person to be seen. Shouted Bess! as we passed
her cabin but she was not at home but her husband came in made us a
fire looking with wonder at our dripping condition. We rushed to our rooms
changed our clothing while he boiled us some water we made ginger
tea & drank as hot as possible—Now the sun is out, the clouds beautiful
& all nature more beautiful than ever. We do not think we have taken
cold—And I sit here at the window writing & thinking, have been

writing to mother. I do hope to get some word from home today! But I know there are birthday gifts on the way for me.

Sunday June 18. Rose early. Mary got sick so am in the kitchen trying from almost nothing to make something. While we were both over the fire the Dr. came excused ourselves but said he liked to see us busy— seemed to enjoy seeing us at work— well much to our discomfort he stopped to dinner. Mr. Ev. came this morning look as if he had been quite sick. While we were at dinner a man came from Peter's Point saying Mr. B. was there & wanted his horse sent with Billy's cart. So out in the yard hunting Billy then found Footman to harness the team off cleared away our dinner— then in an hour Mr. B. came— brought us letters. & of this day so eventful will write no more— only say I went to S. S. sang & talked + + + + + + +

Tuesday 20. Not at all well yesterday. + + + After dinner today took Mr. B's horse rode to Peter's Point brought back safely 2 qts. molasses. & 2 bottles of ink. The molasses was in a small demijohn & fastened to the saddle. The ride did me good.

Wed. 21. Thunder shower. Used my slates in school. How delighted the children were with them! I anticipate great pleasure & profit in using them. Those who had never been to school hardly knew what to do with them but Ned Blake who is my most advanced scholar & who reads in Second Reader, soon had his name printed in large plain letters from a copy I made him. One girl I noticed moving her pencil with great rapidity & wondered if she knew how to write, looked on her slate & she had been trying to write making marks running

from one side of the slate to the other & this she really thought was writing only she could not read it. It really looked at a little distance as if it were. How should she know that each little mark should be made to represent some particular letter? One would think I were hospital steward today. Miss S.'s foot is quite sore having been stung by a bee. Mr. B. not well. Mr. Ev. improving slowly – so I've run from one to the other up stairs & down. Just as I thought I was all through commenced to read to Mr. Ev. a woman came for vinegar for her husband who was sick. So ran up & asked Mr. B. if vinegar was the medicine he needed, describing the symptoms the woman had spoken of; he said must not let him have it would be bad for him & told me what to get – The woman was quite dissatisfied not to get the vinegar they ask for this usually when they are sick. When I had finished with her it was too dark to read to Mr. Ev.

Friday 23d. Mary better & with us again have been to see her several times this week would usually find her lying in the doorway sleeping. She is not strong & must be quite old. Raining all day the first real rainy day since we've been here. 9 o'clk. came but no children, none came during the day. So no school. All have been sitting here at the table writing the day has been unusually quiet – Mr. Ev. gains – This rainy day has been so pleasant.

June 24. Sat. Still it rains – Cleared at noon. We, or rather the men in the Fort, killed our calf yesterday, so after it cleared went on horseback taking a piece of the veal to Misses Bliss & Ames & invited them here Monday to dine. Ride was slow & almost despaired of getting home, shower overtook me. These showers seem like our Apr.

Sunday 25. Raining, gentle, pleasant showers all day. Ford more quiet than usual. Have been stupid & dull most of the day. How much I would give for a home Sabbath with all its privileges— Most of our days are so quiet, that the Sabbath differs but little from them & there is little to remind us of the day. We have but little Sab. reading nothing but what I've read. A heavy shower just at S. S. time hindered our going— We would willingly go but these people do not go out much when it rains & none would come.

Monday 26. Am pleased to say had a larger number in school today than usual. The slates are of great service and afford much amusement to the little ones I wish I had twice the number. Prepared with our united efforts a sumptuous dinner for our company— We invited Mr. Curtis & Mr. Whiteman. Mr C. could not accept the invitation as he could not leave his store, & at 4 o'clk a note of regret from Mr. W.— Mr Alden had not returned & he must remain & attend to business— Our dinner on the all ready but still waited the ladies might come— but when we knew twas too late sat at our feast alone & need not say enjoyed it. We wonder why they did not come but think the means of conveyance must have failed, as is so often the case here.

Tues. 27. First thing this morning a note from Miss Bliss regretting they could not come yesterday & telling of the utter impossibility— The boat they were to come in a part of the way proved leaky & the men said unsafe— & they could not get a team any where round them. Settled our accounts with each other all sitting round our table. Letter writing. Mr. B. calculating which steamer he will take for the North, & when to leave here it really begins to seem as if he

were going. Mr. W. gone to Michael Place again.

Thursday 29. Yesterday Cap. Stores brought our mail, beside my letters had number of papers. After dinner Mr. B. left for Mr. Alden's, from where he will go over that part of the Is. surveying it in regard to places suitable for opening schools in the fall. Tonight have been writing letters which I am anxious to have go. 'Tis not often we have a light but did tonight that I might finish my letters, but obliged to keep a smudge burning to keep off the musquitoes, to write in this disagreeable smoke which stings my eyes & makes us cough.

Friday, June 30. Rose early, found a man who would take my letters to camp, felt anxious to have them go early as we were told there was a boat expected today. Warm in school, severe headache. This may be our last day in school till fall the weather grows too warm & 'tis almost impossible to teach longer. It is uncertain about our returning to this place then as there are many objections. There are not scholars enough for both of us to have a full school. The place Miss S. has for a schoolroom could not be comfortable in the winter, as 'tis very open with only shutters for windows or rather to keep out the weather. No place for a fire at all. For two to teach here again one would need a horse & ride off to our other plantation, could go to Peter's Point, where there could be a large schl. When Mr. B. returns can tell better what we shall do.

Saturday July 1st Severe thunder showers. Arranging things in our chamber. Musquito net &c. Sewing a little. When it showers the people do not come in & we are sure of our time. Lt. Jenkens rode up at noon the sun was out then & very hot. We have just had a fine muskmelon brought us by July Bricket so we ate this, 'twas very delicious, the Lt. ate pepper & salt with his. We think soon we shall have as many melons as we wish from the people. Mr. B. when we first came, gave out a great many packages of seeds. Yesterday July brought a good watermelon charging 1.50 for it, we told him that was altogether too much, & offered .75 which he took. This will be more than they ought to charge when they are plenty, but these people have a very incorrect idea of prices, usually charging too much for whatever they wish to sell then letting it go for half of the first price they set. We try & teach them in this matter, telling them, as nearly as we can, what the article is worth. They have used Confederate money so long they have become accustomed to hearing large prices put upon everything & can hardly realize that Yankee money, as they call ours, is worth so much more. Sometimes they tell us how much this & that cost - & we say yes, but that was Reb money, what was it worth! what could you do with it if you had a cart load! Then they laugh - & say "that good for nothing." This afternoon have been looking over papers & reading the trial of President Lincoln's Assassins - 'Twas terrible! Booth! How that name will ever recall this terrible scene!

Miss S. has been suffering with toothache this long time, there is no way she can have it extracted here but will have to go to Beau. or Chs'ton, What a journey to take to find a dentist! And how are we on this far off place ever to know, in time to take it, when the boat comes. + + There are many things I think of that in writing this daily record I might have mentioned which seem almost strange I have not but seeing or hearing them as I do every day, they become so much a matter of course I do not think to speak of them. And I think of it now as we may leave this place soon.

These people are early risers, let me be up ever so early I always find some of them stirring, often with the huge hoe on the shoulder going to the field— They seldom breakfast till their return, when the sun grows too hot for them to work. Then they boil hominy or rice, the children sitting on the floor, in the doorway, or anywhere they choose eating it— if they have a spoon well, if not the hand does just as well. They seldom, if ever, have meat— those who draw rations get a little piece of salt pork or mackerel— Sugar or molasses is a great luxury with them. Sugar, they can get a spoonful from the Commissary when they are sick. They often come to us for a little sweetning. And our pork we can easily exchange for their hominy, rice or any vegetables they may have. After their morning meal they do odd things about their cabins & rest, often sleep. About three or four in the afternoon they go afield again all who are large enough to handle a hoe or scare the crows— "min bird," they call it— are mustered into service. Working

till sunset they come again to their cabins draging along so warily. Then the large mortar & long pestle, which stands near the door, is called into use. & here they pound, pound, pound, till the husks are beaten from the rice then pour it into their shallow trays or baskets fanning or tossing it up & down letting the chaff fly away - If any remains with the husks on into the mortar 'tis put again & again pounded - This is hard work, & 'tis often amusing to see the little ones trying their strength, some just able to lift the pestle others a little larger giving a few strokes. They love to attempt what they see the older ones do. When we were first here and heard this pounding we would often go to the window thinking to see horses it sounded so much like their tramp. 'Tis the first sound in the morning & the last sound at night, unless I except the sounds which come to us from their prayermeetings, for after their day's work they as often as twice in the week have a meeting, usually holding till after midnight, & often as we have lain awake during the night could we hear them singing, talking or praying. Often early in the morning I hear Billy Nelson's family worship, him praying - the family singing. He is a good man & a kind friend to us. There is nothing specially interesting about him - except his goodness. He is dull, slow & stupid, yet in his year of freedom has by steadily plodding on gathered things quite comfortable around him. Has a good horse, a cart which he made the most of himself, a pig - & a large number of hens & chickens, to say nothing of the pots & kettles in the house which we are glad to borrow sometimes, especially the "bake oven" a large shallow iron kettle with a close fitting

cover. This is all we have had for baking since coming here. These people can seldom afford a candle but the lite from the fireplace or if too warm for that a lighted piece of pine is put on the mantlepiece — We had occasion to try this though with-out success a little while since. Our last candle was gone & had been for more than a week, in the night we needed a light I tried to think of something to burn & remembering their light I had seen in the cabins thought of a little stick in the fireplace & tried to light up as they did but I hadn't learned the art & was obliged to submit to the darkness- Often a week at a time we have no light in the house. We have but few candles in our rations to buy they are very expensive & here we cannot get them at all. A few evenings when it has been cool enough 'twas pleasant to have a fire on the hearth for the light,

Sunday, July 2d. Have been reading Beecher's sermon in the "Independent." So Beecher preaches to us way off here! I find my-self getting attached to him. Mr. Blake returned from Mr. Alden's just in time to escape a heavy shower. Stood on the piazza held the pitcher out & had some nice fresh water to drink- a luxury!

The rain would hinder our people from coming to S. S. so we sitting on the piazza Mr. B. read us a sermon by Dr. Adams, "He showed them his hands & his feet." John Nelson, who was here, Mr. B. asked to tell the people just around, after the shower, he would hold a

meeting in our School room if they would come in. A good number gathered - A pleasant service we had - solemn & long to be remembered. Mr. B. told them we expected to leave in the morning, thus our labors here for the present would close - if we did not come again in the Fall they would have some teachers - & made many good suggestions. Thanked them for their kindness to us - The people were much affected, though quiet as they always are when he leads them. At the close Mr. Blake led in prayer - We took each by the hand in parting while the tears ran down our faces - we were parting with kind & true friends - + The reason of our final decision is, Mr. B. brings us word the soldiers, who have been stationed here, are recalled as 'tis thought there is no further need of their services here - They probably will leave in the boat in the morning - Miss S. must have three teeth extracted. So we propose to put up a few things, Miss S. & I go as early in the morning as we can get a team to the boat. If we should not get there in time we will return with the team for our few goods & provisions & we will take up our abode at the house the officers have occupied till a boat does come. It may be a few days, it may be weeks - If we miss this boat there will be no other way for us to do - 'Tis worse than getting to Europe from home. We must be up early in the morning —

Monday. July 3d. "William Seabrook Place."

Here we are in the house the officers occupied. We rose early this morning to carry out the plan of last night neither of us had slept much I not feeling well - Miss S.'s teeth troubling her & we found Mr. B. had an attack of fever, this would probably pass off in a few hours & he insisted on our going - Told Mary what to do & though she scolded us for going off & leaving the "Dr." sick when he had been so kind to us, we started with a few things in a bag & a lunch. On the way heard the boat left this morning at 4 o'clk. but kept on to camp - this place - here we found Mrs. Webb alone, all gone, she was lonely, just trying to get a horse to come up to see us. We learned the boat was expected again in a few days, on its way to Chs'tn. So we planned we'd better attempt going in then. After a little rest Miss S. went back in the team for some of our goods & eatables just sufficient to make us comfortable, so if Mr. B. thought well of it to remain then to take the next boat - What a piece of work to be obliged to move 6 miles & take up our abode in an empty house to go to a city 35 miles distant & then to have a tooth extracted!

July 4. 65. Tuesday — All confusion — Nothing whatever to remind us of the day. Is it really our great National holiday? Can it be there is a great noise of drum, & of cannon, & of music at home — All is quiet here & all I am occupied with is connected just with this disorder of things round me. As I said Miss S. went back to "Farmview" for a bed & a few things to make us comfortable — Mrs. Webb, who was still in the house, shared her bed with me as at 9 o'clock they had not come. I was not yet asleep when, hearing a noise, at the door, asked, "who's there"? heard Mr. B.'s & Miss S.'s voices — Hastily dressed came out there was the team with the bed &c. unloaded — Ate a watermelon they brought. Bed on the floor for Mr. B. Miss S. took Mrs. Webb's lounge. After breakfast took the team — Such a team! Such a horse — went to "Farmview" for a few more necessaries — 'Twas hot, so hot, the horse would not or perhaps could not go faster than a slow walk. Half way there he almost refused to go, what could be the matter. I examined his back under the saddle & 'twas so sore — There I stood in the hot sun surrounded by a swarm of musquitoes. I looked this way & that for relief, but none could come, I must do the best I could — 'twas no better to go back than to go on — If I could only put something under the saddle to soften! I thought over my dress what would be of use — my handkerchief might do but both I had with me were fine hemstitched, but took the stronger one filled it with green leaves, pinned it together & pinned it under the heavy saddle — This relieved in some degree. Poor horse, how I pitied him! I know he would, if he could, have pitied me. A little further on met a little girl carrying melons & cucumbers to sell to the soldiers, told her they were all gone. She looked tired & worn

so took her in the cart to ride on with me as far as she went. She took a branch & kept the misquitoes off for me

Reaching the house found all as they had left the night before, picked up the things most needed – few dishes, cooking utensils, clothing &c put the other things together. In case we should wish to send for them, for when we return shall go directly to the Bay to spend the hot weather. Succeeded in getting another horse, John Nelson came back with us to return with the team. Had pleasant talk with him on the way. His children had been to school to me & he seemed so grateful they had the opportunity to learn. During the ride he went to sleep several times but the old nag jogged on knowing the road as well as he. Once he asked if I had a match with me & if I would be sick if he should smoke.

The long, long, ride at last came to an end, as we came near the house found Miss S. just ready to go to a meeting – 'tis 4 of July, I have to remind myself of the day – with Rev. Mr. Decard who has charge of the Presbyterian Ch. a few miles from here – & Mr. B. was to make a speech – John unloaded the things & thus added a little more to the confusion & 'tis so warm – While they were gone to the meeting rested did not attempt to do anything, when they returned Mr. B. brought me a beautiful pink flower, Crape Myrtle, and a large green apple, the first I have seen since leaving home. 'Twas the first opportunity I have had to use my beautiful

fruit knife aunt Mary gave me on my leaving home. We do not know when the boat will come but hope. It will be a great disappointment to Mr. B. if one should not come in time for him to take the next steamer home.

Wed. July 5. Mr. Ev. came over to see us. We are all out of provisions, are living on almost nothing, as near it as possible. Cannot get our rations for July till Mr. B. goes to Beaufort then Mr. Ev. will go with him to bring them back. While sitting on the piazza heard the boat whistle. The gentlemen started for the landing to learn when & how soon it would go, we rushed to our room, put things again in our bags ready ~~for~~ at a moments warning—but there was not after all need of hurry, for when the gents returned said the boat would not leave till 4 o' in the morning.

Thursday Jy. 6. To go on with yesterday, when the gents returned said the boat was on its way to Beaufort where it would remain probably a week, what were we to do, as necessary as it was for Miss S. to go it did not seem best to go for that length of time as there was no place for us to go but to a hotel where the board is enormously expensive. On further reflection decided after all 'twas best to wait till the return of the boat on its way to Cha'ton as it never remains there so long. I should say our great hinderance to our going or staying is want of funds, funds which we should have. All four of us are out. Mr. B. hoped to get money in B. when Toward night a Mr. Carter who came in the boat called, found he was a graduate of Harvard College, a classmate of Frank Ap., had since been

been a student at Princeton & knew of my friends there. Mr. B.
had invited him to tea with us, at first I was rather troubled
at the thought of having company in our unsettled state &
with so little to place on the table. But had some good fritters &
bought some crackers from Mr. Brann's little store, then we opened a
can of peaches we have saved this long time for some case of emer-
gency. & we made out a supper. The musquitoes did not forget
yet to annoy us - even though twas the last evening we were all
to be together - About 9. the gentlemen thought it time for them
to go to the boat already for the morning start. So bid Mr. W. &
Mr. Carter good bye & Mr. Blake a long farewell & they were gone, for
a few moments we stood on the piazza till we could see them in
the darkness no longer then retired rather lonely, we two.
Before they left Mr. B. dropped his knife from the steps & though all searched
for it with lighted candles could not find it. This morning, as I was awake
very early, as soon as twas light, looked again for it, thinking the boat
may not have left took it down to the landing. I was just in time & glad
I made the effort, coming back took the wrong road which added to my walk
a mile but did not mind it much as I found a beautiful white bell-like
flower trailing along the pathway - But the air was too scorching for it to
hold its head up, when taken from the dewy vine & when I would show its beauty
twas gone - When I reached the house Mrs. S. told me Mr. B's horse. which he had
left for Mr. Curtis during his absence & was to go to him today - had

been during the night shot- we both examined him thought the case a bad one- The men who gathered round- as men will gather round when a horse is in question- suggested this thing & that which ought to be done for the horse's comfort & for the detection of the offender.

Thursday July 7. I could not write all for yesterday then, there was so much, will finish today, & yet there is so much for today, "something happening most of days," in our quiet life we have some stir, for the fact is if there is any stir we know of it & have it. To go on with the horse story- Jake, who is Capt. of the Guard Mr. Alden has at the wharf, said Miss S. & I ought to go to Mr. Alden, tell him about the horse & as he had found the man whom he thought guilty would take him along with witnesses. We hated to go but thought 'twas best. Just the hottest part of the day we started- obliged to take just such animals we could get- and such looking animals as they were- surely the boniest, skinniest things one ever saw outside of a museum- Miss S's animal must have been, "A what-is-it?" really when she mounted the little beast I looked to see it sink beneath the weight- mine was a little taller, but a real ugly, long-eared animal- A picture which would enrich a comic Almanac we were- Our umbrellas we spread to keep us from the burning sun. After riding about a mile met Dr. Webster, the surgeon of the 2s., coming from Mr. Alden's with our mail, stopped & took it but my large bundle of papers was rather too much for me beside the reins & umbrella- so when we came to Mr. Dechart's left them with him here my mule showed his peculiar disposition & carried me in an opposite direction till he took a notion to bring me back, then really

ran till he stopped suddenly at the steps of the Presbyterian Ch.
I wonder if he thought I was like a devout Presbyterian, or if he
thought at all when he as suddenly started off & across the
road to a large tree & then stood long enough for me to read a
long letter. He seemed to know when I finished for he was on
again & went well another mile when 'twas his pleasure to whirl
round & round trying to throw me. This was in a dense swarm
of musquitoes & 'twas not an enviable position, but his whirling
over, started on the run again, passed Miss S. & her little nag & then
did not stop till, almost breathless, he landed me at Mr. A's house.
sometime before Miss L. came. In a businesslike (?) way stated
the case to Mr. A. The man with the accused had arrived &
really 'twas quite courtlike — & I wished I were ever so far off & out
of the affair. The man was thought to be guilty, proved to be an old
offender. He made all sorts of comical excuses — did not mean to &c.
Part of the time one would feel like laughing & then like crying.
I don't really know what was done with the man, probably put in
the guard house for a season. The gentlemen insisted on our stopping
to dine with them, we did not need much urging & 'twas pleasant
to sit at a good dinner as we are almost out of everything, told Mr. A.
begged him to give us something from the rations for colored people.
Gave us 7lbs. of flour from his own store & a loaf of bread.
After mounting at the door my animal just refused to leave

the place. A boy led him to the gate, but no, he would go no further till he had turned back, ran across the lawn, carried me under the low branches of an oak tearing my hat & scratching my face, one of the gentlemen sent a boy to lead him again, this time he went apparently having a mind to. Rode pleasantly till we stopped at Mr. Escard's to get the papers we had left there, stopped to wait som tea was brought in & we sat with the Rev. gentleman at his little table just large enough for one & with dishes in proportion, but his cook had amply provided for three & we had a pleasant supper- Must not forget I promised to send him a cup & saucer "when my box comes." Thinking to get back sooner took a footpath leading through corn & cotton fields to the main road- But little did we think how much would befall us in that short distance! A short distance on the way heard a noise looked round, there was Miss S. thrown "head first" from her horse. she, the horse & loaf of bread on the ground- I shouted to know if she was killed, or hurt, or if I'd better dismount, as having a bag of flour would be no easy matter & would not do it unless twere a necessity- I heard her laugh & saw the animal reaching out eating a green corn blade, all this proved there was life & strength so I only waited for her to get on & up with me- When the road opened before us my mule & I did not agree, he gained the day, moral reason availed nothing. He took me directly into a thick wood where the branches, thick & tangled with brier vine, were almost impenetrable. Little did he care that he was slitting my dress from top to bottom of the skirt, tearing the sleeves & giving all sorts

of shapes to my hat, when he chose & not before he went on, now 'twas quite dark & we hardly knowing whether we were on the right road or not. Soon saw a house in the distance, as I approached it saw 'twas high from the ground with no close underpinning - saw the horse seemed directed to go under but tried to be in season to prevent it but what did he do but just drag me under that house - 'twas high enough for him but not for us both, in a moment saw my position - let go the reins & threw myself back as flat on the horse as possible, 'twas too late for me to lean forward - for quicker than I can write it he was under - there I was, no human being near & in that position on that mule, under an empty house. I shouted with all my strength, which seemed like weakness - soon I heard Miss S.'s voice but in the darkness she could not for a moment understand the state of thing, where I was, or how. After a time - it seemed like an hour - a man came - he stood there looking at me, no wonder, he did not know which to attempt to move me or the horse, he seemed stupified & not till I said, in a commanding voice, "take me down", did he do anything. I don't wonder. The man led the mule, I walking till we came to the main road & did well till we reached the house when I determined I'd never if I could help it get on a mule again. Tilly & all had been anxious about us, she had a hot supper for us as soon as possible, the bread, through all its peril, arrived safely - but poor Miss S. had a terrible tooth ache - But we were thankful to be back

with whole limbs. Soon after retiring heard footsteps on the piazza went to the window 'twas Henry Bram come to tell us a boat from Beaufort had just arrived bringing Maj. Saxton & wife, Capt. Lowe & wife, & a number of others they were on a pleasure trip had come to call at the Is. & though I knew not what we'd have for breakfast had such a desire to see some white people asked him to invite them to breakfast with us in the morn. So though so tired last night was up & had things respectable & in good order when our company came at 8 o'clk. Only four breakfasted with us the others just riding up from the boat & calling for these to join them on their excursion over the Is. When the large ambulance — which must have come on the boat with them — drew up I saw a little child, it made me homesick & for a moment stepped back into the hall & let the tears come, but when I met them they were all dry. 'Twas Maj. Saxton's little Eddie. This has been an exciting, though very pleasant day. 'Twas so pleasant to see so many white faces — Maj. Saxton told us rations to teachers are not to be issued, they stopped Jul. 1st & recommended us to go home to remain till Oct. In fact, all the party but one spoke decidedly about it & so all day we have been quitting. Only think in this confused state & then to be obliged to decide thus hurriedly about going home when we had had no thought of going till so much had been said to us about its not being safe for us to remain. What shall we do! I feel that we are in God's hand, that he will direct our footsteps.

Saturday July 8. Last night engaged a team to take us to "Farm" this morning, & really I must note it down the man was here as early as the time set — sunrise — We find as our stay here is lengthened 'tis necessary for us to get more things from our place, when the boat will come we cannot tell. The ride, though early, was hot & while waiting at the house for the sun to be lower & for the cool of the day, lay down & slept. Priscilla baked us a hoecake & we bought a watermelon from a woman so were not hungry. Our ride home was hard, the horse seemed tired or sick or something & we were obliged to leave him in the road the last half mile, walk home, & send the man back for the team, he seemed to understand how to manage for he soon made him trot off at a good pace.

Sunday. 9. Very hot. How much we'd like to go to church really we would attempt the walk if 'twere not so hot, it would not be safe, but 'tis a great temptation. Could do nothing but try & keep comfortable at Miss ... Milly, who has a room in the basement, and her children came up on the piazza sang with them heard the little boy say his Catechism for though he had not been taught to read he had been taught this.

Tuesday 11. Mr. Alden is intending to use this place for his head quarters as 'tis nearer the boat landing & on that acc and more convenient to draw the rations. yesterday some of the Commissary store began to come he was in and out often, the rations to the people will be issued from here. This evening is rather cooler.

Friday July 4. The rations being issued from a small building in the yard hundreds flock here every day. I'm up at daylight & there they are, probably some who live at a great distance when they cannot be served at night remain till the next day. While they were waiting took my Bible & read to them the 5th of Matt. after reading the chapter read again the Beatitudes, they repeating them after me. They are delighted to hear the Word of God read - It's but little I can do for them just now during this heat. So I gladly have read to them these mornings. Still we wait for the boat, when will it come. If for no other reason we would like it to come to bring us provision we hardly know what Mr. W. will decide to do when he learns the rations for teachers are stopped. There is a little store kept by a colored man here in the grove but tis little we can buy there & that little we run in debt for as neither of us have one cent, what would our home friends say if they knew it. I don't write thinking every mail we shall receive. Jake brought us some rice today, a present, we have a great supply of coffee & today changed some with a woman for tomatoes & melons - but they don't care much for coffee as they have no sugar, if we only had sugar we could get anything they have for it, but we are paying 35 cts. a lb. for it. The same for crackers.

I went to the cabins on the place this morning to see if there was not something in their gardens we could have. They all seemed more willing than able to give, one man with a wooden leg went through & through his corn but found only two ears ready to eat, It is time for it but all their

came to the Is. too late to plant in season - I was coming away with the corn when he went to the hen roost and gave me two eggs - One woman gave me a squash - Quite a begging expedition! I never thought I'd come to this. When we do have plenty again must remember those who have given us of their little.

The boat I presume will come sometime! When. Impatient waity.

Monday July 24. Really we have been to Charleston. A whole week we were obliged to remain in the city. Returned last night. But I will go back to the day we left. 'Twas Saturday I was lying on a settee on the piazza feeling so weak & 'twas so hot, heard the boat whistle — then, there was no mistake this time. Packed up our things again. Mr. W. came [illegible] purchased ration for us Mr. B. getting money in Beaufort & lending him. We had an exciting time brought me my first box from home [illegible] glanced at the contents a note from Mr. B. just before he left for the North stating reasons why he thought 'twas decidedly best for us to take the next Steamer home. His reasons were all good he could appreciate our situation as none other could, he knew how very difficult 'twould be to get food on the Island then there were other reasons - Again we were questioning in our own minds we felt decided that we could remain But if we should fall a victim to the fever would we be censured for remaining? Then there were all the boxes & things sent us by the Societies, they had not arrived - What would be the effect of

we should go home & to the question, How did the clothing answer for the people, answer when we left it had not arrived! How it would affect the faithless ones they would feel twas no use to send — &c. All this we had to think of! If we should go all our preparations must be made in three hours — part of our things in one place part in another. We decided that unless when we reached Chs'ton they thought there we ought to go on account of the climate we would remain trusting that God in His kind providence would care for us. So we left told Tilly what to do if we should send for our clothing, gave Mr. W. the keys to our trunks. Mr. Alden had his man take us in his carriage, took watermelon, & cakes from my box to eat on the way as we had no money to pay board on the boat fortunately we don't pay for being Gov. boat. The boat went but a little way that night anchored slept on the deck as twas more comfortable than the little berth. The Cap. politely invited to to dine though we told him of our poverty. At noon Sunday we reached the city of destruction. We found Mr. Pillsbury, Sup. of Freedmen & kindly interested in teachers & all who help the cause of the colored man, He happened to be at his office, kindly invited us to his house though his wife was absent at the North & his adopted daughter Jennie was housekeeper — He would not hear of our going to a hotel — for from him we could get money this was our dependence & the next day I received from him 25.00 as he was short this was all he could let us have.

Nov. 9th. Have just come in from Cynthia's—found her hot and
feverish. Wordgun in the same bed with her. Came home, took tea
sugar & a slice of my nice bread, went back prepared the tea by
her fire & sat on the bed while she ate. She of course praised it
and I told her of our new store, and all other things in our
housekeeping, knowing they would interest her.— Today has been
warm, like Oct. weather at home.— Many absent from school, several
sick, and many things are keeping them home just now. Dolly
Frazier, who was at school Friday, has been absent this week
as Saturday she gave birth to twins. Today sent her what I
could for the little ones.— Yesterday fitted Richard Bryan
out with pants, vest & shirt—'twas almost impossible to find
pants long enough.— When he was reading his lesson, after reading
the sentence, "There is more sea than land" said, "I didn't know
that before, is that so ma'am?" He is my best scholar. Comes
on horseback every morning, lives six miles off, is lame.— The
woman for whom I've been fitting a a dress, could not come, so
her husband, I mean one who may be her husband, brought the skirt
which she had finished, and took the waist to her.—

Sunday Nov. 11— The wind of yesterday, cold & stormlike is gone
The sky is bright and the sun warm this afternoon.—

Monday Eve, Nov. 12. Little did I think when I so laid my pen
down last night, I could not write 'till now, and that 'twould be

to write with a sad heart, and troubled mind. Friday night when we came home Miss Stanton said she had been to her bundles of clothing for several articles, and they were not there, one new piece of gingham — What to think we do not know. Yesterday, or rather Saturday looked over my boxes and missed many things three prs. men's pants (which I had out Wednesday, when I gave Richard & Bryan a pair.) and several vests. We spoke to Susanna (our cook) she does not know of any one coming in or being here while we were all out on Friday — She has been with us since Cynthia has been sick.

There was nothing in her manner which should lead us to suspect her. We could not tell anything — Sunday Morning Susanna's father, came in before breakfast, after talking of other things awhile, referred to our having missed some of our things, and he in a most delicate manner said, he felt grieved that it should have occurred just after his daughter's coming here &c. I felt much for him, but he spoke well for Susanna, that she had told him. During his conversation, he suggested that we look among a certain person's things, search her house and the like. He avoided calling names, but we well knew whom he meant Cynthia. We could not bear to suspect one for whom we had done so much, and in whom we had placed so much confidence. During the day our minds were much

troubled & perplexed. What was the wisest thing to do, I prayed that God would direct & give us wisdom. I rest at night, I lay my pen down & with hearts beating full of painful emotion, went to Cynthia's cabin. Allen welcomed us as usual. Cynthia was in bed. I sat by her side, Miss Stanton by the door. Miss S. said to Cynthia, she had missed a piece of new gingham, asked her if she knew anything about it. She immediately became very angry. We tried to explain, telling her we did not come to accuse her, but to see if she could tell us anything, but she in angry tones, declared she knew nothing, saying we might search her house through. This was what we wished to do; but when we accepted the offer, she rose angrily - began violently to pull down clothing already plain in sight. I turned to the bureau when she opened the first & second drawers, showing their contents, nothing belonged to us. Then as if she were through, and exhausted with the effort, threw ~~her herself~~ herself upon the bureau groaning. We all stood some minutes, when I offered to look in the next drawer, but she quickly opened it, throwing out several things we had given her, but how my heart ached, what a terrible feeling came over me, as I stepped the other side, and pulled out garment after garment which belonged to Miss Stanton.

[illegible] 1864

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mittee better success in their attempts at securing this class of entertainments in future.

SAD CASE OF DROWNING.—*Singular Fatality.* Intelligence was received yesterday of the death of Miss Ellen S. Kempton, at Edisto Island. She was drowned in St. Piane's Creek on Christmas day. Two others were lost at the same time, Miss Stanton, of Lowell, and Mr. James P. Blake, of New Haven, who has been superintendent of schools on that island. No further particulars have yet been communicated. Miss Kempton has been laboring during the past year among the freedmen as a teacher, under the patronage of the Ladies' Freedmen's Aid Society of this city. She was much esteemed among us as a young lady of consistent Christian character and earnest purpose. In her chosen work she has encountered many privations, but has endured them cheerfully, and labored successfully. The memory of such should be cherished and honored no less than that of our patriots who have fallen in the field.

Miss Kempton's father was drowned in California, and one brother also met his death by drowning, in March last, in Chesapeake Bay.

THE FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY met at their rooms to-day, but under a deep feeling of bereavement in the recent loss of their teacher, Miss Ellen S. Kempton, they adjourned the meeting after passing the following resolutions, viz.:

Whereas, It has pleased the All Wise Ruler of events to take from us, suddenly, an earnest co-worker, who has for nearly one year acted in the capacity of teacher from this society to the freed people at Edisto Island, South Carolina, faithfully fulfilling her arduous duties far from home and kindred, sacrificing all these enjoyments and with heroic courage going forth to labor for God's long enslaved race; suffering at times many privations cheerfully, guided by the dictates of duty; therefore

Resolved, That we deeply mourn and lament her sudden and untimely death, but with feelings of deep contrition, we bow our heads to the rod and acknowledge, with reverence, "Thy will be done."

Resolved, That to the bereaved family who have lost a beloved daughter and devoted sister, this society tenders its most heartfelt sympathy, imploring the sustaining hand of the Almighty to support these sorrow-stricken ones in their renewed affliction.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and that they be placed upon our records.

The society has ...

1866

[Reported for the Standard.]

Meeting of the School Committee.

MONDAY EVENING, Jan. 8.

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the school committee was held this evening, Mr. Almy in the chair. Present the chairman and Messrs. Fessenden, Chisholm, Hutchinson, Lawton, Coe, Howe, Clarke, Burt, Swasey, Devoll, Mumford, Kirby, and Rodman.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The board proceeded to the election of superintendent, when Rev. Henry F. Harrington was unanimously chosen.

On motion of Mr. Fessenden the salary of the superintendent was fixed at $2000 per annum, to commence from the 1st inst.

The report of the High School committee in answer to the inquiry referred to them at a previous meeting as to the changes in text books used in the High School and the reasons therefor was submitted, and received and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Hutchinson, voted that the arrangement of studies in the High School be left to the committee on that school.

Mr. Rodman, after announcing the death of Miss Ellen S. Kempton, formerly one of the teachers in the public schools, of this city, offered the following:

Whereas, Since the last meeting of this board the sad intelligence of the sudden death of Miss Ellen S. Kempton, at Edisto Inlet, S. C., on the 25th ult., has been received,

Resolved, That the members of the school board have heard with heartfelt sorrow of the calamity which has suddenly removed one who was for many years a faithful, earnest and valued teacher in the public service of this city and who recently resigned her trust here only to consecrate herself with a noble heroism to the cause of the freedmen.

Resolved, That we offer our sincere and tender sympathies to the bereaved members of the family whose hearthstone is left desolate, and commend them prayerfully to Him who "doeth all things well," and will in the end bring light out of every darkness.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, ordered to be entered on the records, and the secretary was instructed to transmit a copy to the family of the deceased.

On motion ...

Jan. 1866

Bed

FESSENDEN

NEW BEDFORD,

THE LATE MISS KEMPTON.—Below we print the last report, written by the lamented Ellen S. Kempton to the Freedmen's Society, aud pub i hed in the Freedmen's *Record* for this month. It shows the greatness of the work in which she was engaged, and how admirably she was fitted for it.

[*From the Freedmen's Record for* 1866.]

We commenced our school the 16th of this month, in a small building on the plantation, formerly used as a cabin. The first day, thirty came. This we thought a fair beginning. At the end of the week, the number had increased so that the small room would not accommodate both of us; so we divided the number, Miss S. taking half to a building in the yard, once used as a kitchen. The same day, after dismissing my pupils, the young men remained, took down a partition, and removed a stairway, to make the room larger; so now my room will seat about seventy. 'Tis a rough, ugly looking place, with rather too free ventilation. The windows are closed by board shutters,—no glass. After the men had finished the work, I took them with me, and gave them a dinner of hominy and molasses, with a cup of tea. Some of them ate with so much eagerness, that I asked them if they had eaten breakfast before they left home, and five of them had eaten nothing for the day, though they had walked six miles. Then I did not wonder at their being helped to the 5th and 6th plateful. (Hardly polite, perhaps you think, to notice how much my guests ate.) I made sure that none went away hungry. This was my first dinner party; surely one never had a more grateful or needy one. The people on this place, and in fact, on this part of the Island, are extremely poor, and, since the rations have ceased, have suffered from hunger. This suffering, I am convinced, from what I can learn, is not caused by laziness, or want of tact; but the larger

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THE FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY received today $10 from Mrs. Sylvanus Thomas, and $5 from a friend. Donations of valuable clothing have been sent in to the value of $41, and a bundle of the same from the ladies in Marion. Also a donation of a large box of Sunday school books from the Pacific Union church in Westport. A box, valued at $73, was forwarded to Columbus, Ga.

We are now fully informed as to the particulars relative to the late sad accident at Edisto Island on Christmas day last, when three valuable lives were lost by drowning in St. Pierre's Creek—Miss Ellen S. Kempton, Miss Mira Stanton and Mr. James P. Blake, of which some mention has been made before:

Mr. Blake came up from Charleston, where he was practising law, to spend a few days in company with his friends, whom he had known for some time, and to whom he had rendered effectual service, often assisting them in circumstances of great perplexity, when they came upon the Island strangers and without many of the comforts of home. Having procured a boat and being a skilful and experienced oarsman, he invited the ladies to go with him to visit some friends farther up the creek, on the island. They reached their destination safely and dined in the same house and room where they ate their first meal on coming to the place. Towards evening they took leave of their kind friends and proceeded homeward. But the little batteau, though fit for one person, was not suitable for more, and having laden it with other things on returning, it was unable to withstand the tide, which was strong at that time. They were heard approaching, by anxious friends upon the shore, their voices in conversation were heard, when suddenly a scream, followed by a second and a third